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ABSTRACT

This report presents the recommendations and proceedings of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II) in two sections. Thirteen issues and recommendations of high national priority identified by the federal delegates to the WHCLIS II are provided in the first section: (1) Preservation Plan for Federal Libraries; (2) National Preservation Policy; (3) National Networking Policy; (4) Multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network; (5) Depository Library Program; (6) Fees for Service; (7) Endorsement of the National Commission for Library and Information Science (NCLIS) "Public Information Principles"; (8) Knowledge Transfer Systems as National Priority; (9) Federal Libraries as Inherently Governmental Functions; (10) Locator System for Federal Information; (11) National Information Policy (Congressional); (12) Five-year White House Conference; and (13) Ten-year White House Conference. A directory of the WHCLIS II federal delegates and their alternates are also included. The conference proceedings include the following sections: (1) Introduction; (2) Preconference Agenda and Minutes; (3) Preconference Papers and Presentations, i.e., "Welcome and Introduction" (Winston Tabb and Donald C. Curran); "Keynote Address" (Peter R. Young); "Preservation Issue" (issue paper annotated with text of Alan Fusonie's speech); "Networking Issue" (Sarah A. Mikel and outline of Neal Kaske's presentation); "Funding Issue" (National Agricultural Library press release); "Access Issue" (issue paper by Kurt N. Molholm and speech by Fred B. Wood); (4) WHCLIS II delegate selection results (names of delegates and alternates, ballot, delegate biographies); (5) Report of the Resolutions Committee; (6) names and addresses of the conference attendees, the conference organization chart, and names of the exhibitors and the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) committee and issue group members; and (7) appendixes containing fact sheets, FLAG news updates, and acknowledgments. (MAB)

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FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

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Proceedings of the

Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

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November 26 - 27, 1990

Lister Hill Auditorium
National Library of Medicine

access is the key

About FLICC/FEDLINK

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) was created in 1965 as the Federal Library Committee by joint action of the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget (currently the Office of Management and Budget). FLICC's purpose is to achieve better utilization of federal library and information center resources and facilities through professional development, promotion of services, and coordination of available resources.

FLICC is also responsible for making recommendations on federal library and information policies, programs, and procedures to federal agencies and to others concerned with libraries and information centers.

FLICC's network component, the Federal Library and Information Center Network (FEDLINK) was established in 1978 to allow federal libraries to participate in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Using FLICC/FEDLINK service contracts, federal libraries, information centers, and other offices obtain services directly from commercial sources. These contracts usually provide substantial discounts not available to individual customers. For both large- and small-volume users, this approach secures favorable terms assuring lower costs.

In addition to providing cost-effective library bibliographic services and other library services and products for member libraries and information centers, the network has functioned as a center for evaluating new library technologies.

For further information about our services, write Mary Berghaus Levering, Executive Director, FLICC, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or telephone (202) 707-6055.

Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

sponsored by the
Federal Library and Information Center Committee

November 26-27, 1991
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approved by the Delegates

Recommendation Number and Title	Page
1. Preservation Plan for Federal Libraries	2
2. National Preservation Policy	2
3. National Networking Policy	3
4. Multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network	3
5. Depository Library Program	3
6. Fees for Service	4
7. Endorsement of the NCLIS *Public Information Priniciples*	4
8. Knowledge Transfer Systems as National Priority	4
9. Federal Libraries as Inherently Governmental Functions	6
10. Locator System for Federal Information	6
11 . National Information Policy (Congressional)	9
12. Five-year White House Conference	9
13. Ten-year White House Conference	9

RECOMMENDATION
1. Preservation Plan for Federal Libraries

I. ISSUE: Federal libraries, archives, and information centers hold unique and/ or irreplaceable materials vital both to the integrity of our nation's democratic heritage and to our future productivity, but currently lack the resources and standardized procedures to preserve these holdings.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

That an appropriate Federal agency be funded to develop and implement a preservation policy plan for Federal libraries, archives, and information centers, to include:

1. Preservation education awareness for policy-makers and technical/professional training for staff;
2. Inventory of collections in order to identify unique and/or irreplaceable materials, either for their intellectual content, physical format, or both;
3. Establishment of priorities for preservation of our cultural and intellectual heritage;
4. Achievement of continued funding for preservation of materials identified;
5. Identification of materials already preserved in order to avoid duplication.

RECOMMENDATION
2. National Preservation Policy

I. ISSUE: How should efforts, which will centralize and standardize the preservation of library and archival materials in the United States, be organized?

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

That legislation be enacted to define, fund, and implement a national preservation policy which includes the establishment of a national preservation center to:

1. Specify standards;
2. Conduct research;
3. Promote education;
4. Serve as a clearinghouse for preservation issues, including disaster planning;
5. Generate public awareness of the need for preservation funding and activity.

RECOMMENDATION
3. National Networking Policy

I. ISSUE: How can the Federal library, archive, and information center community develop mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing, and improve services to users in all segments of our society?

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

The creation of a national networking policy.

It is further recommended that Federal Libraries and other information agencies be funded to participate in a national (and ultimately, international) network by:

1. Making use of existing network structures, while planning for future technologies;
2. Fostering cooperation and standardization of communication protocols among federal, state, local, and private information organizations;
3. Keeping foremost the use as the focus of the endeavor, and giving priority to providing affordable access;
4. Promoting educational programs for the user.

RECOMMENDATION
4. Multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network

I. ISSUE: Universal access to Federal information through full participation of Federal libraries and information centers in NREN and other networking activities must be recognized as a vital component in the national information infrastructure.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Federal Library and Information Center Committee be authorized and empowered to take a leadership role in building a strong, coherent, multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network, such as NREN, and cost effective resource sharing, to ensure provision of vital information services to Federal agencies and the general public;
2. That the National Science Foundation plan and fund a demonstration project connecting federal, state, academic, special, public, and school libraries to NSFNET, INTERNET, or NREN (for example) to determine the uses, issues, and problems of networking libraries and the impact of such networking on the services and staffs of libraries.

RECOMMENDATION
5. Depository Library Program

I. ISSUE: The Federal Depository Library Program should be strengthened as a means of economical and efficient sharing of government information among Federal Libraries, their parent agencies, and the public.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Urge Congress to sufficiently fund the Depository Library Program so it can provide all needed Federal Government information to all participants, including Federal libraries;
2. Urge the President to direct Federal agencies to cooperate with the Depository Program by providing their information (as referred to in Section 1901, Title 44, of the U.S. Code) to the system;
3. Require that all government-funded and/or produced information be provided to the program.

RECOMMENDATION
6. Fees for Service

ISSUE: To what extent, if any, should fees be charged by Federal libraries, archives, or information centers for information services to the public?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) be charged to convene representatives of Federal libraries, archives, information centers, other concerned agencies, and users, to study the issue of fees for service and recommend policy in this area;
2. That the White House Conference on Library and Information Services recommend that NCLIS undertake this study.

We direct that a copy of this recommendation be sent to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

RECOMMENDATION
7. Endorsement of the NCLIS "Public Information Principles"

ISSUE: The need for Legislative, Executive, and public support for the ongoing , vitally important effort to develop principles of access to public information.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

The endorsement, by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, to be held in 1991, of the "PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION" statement issued by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in July, 1990.

(This is understood to include all material from "Preamble" to and including the "Conclusion." (See attachment, following page.)

RECOMMENDATION
8. Knowledge Transfer Systems as National Priority

ISSUE: What is needed in order that Federal libraries, archives, and information centers can best support the mission of their agencies as well as provide access to their resources?

BACKGROUND: Libraries and information services are the foundation of the nation's knowledge transfer system which, in turn, is a critical element of any program to improve the education system and the national competitiveness. Investment in libraries and information services is an investment in the future strength of the Nation.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Federal government make education, national competitiveness, and the needed knowledge transfer systems a national priority, and that Federal agencies be directed to develop their budgets in accordance with this policy;

We further recommend that these budgets be sufficient to support the mission of the agency as well as services needed by the public.

The full text of the *Principles of Public Information* follows:

PREAMBLE

From the birth of our nation, open and uninhibited access to public information has ensured good government and a free society. Public information helps to educate our people, stimulate our progress and solve our most complex economic, scientific and social problems. With the coming of the Information Age and its many new technologies, however, public information has expanded so quickly that basic principles regarding its creation, use and dissemination are in danger of being neglected and even forgotten.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, therefore, reaffirms that the information policies of the U.S. government are based on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and on the recognition of public information as a national resource to be developed and preserved in the public interest. We define *public information* as information created, compiled and/or maintained by the Federal Government. We assert that public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law. It is in this spirit of public ownership and public trust that we offer the following Principles of Public Information.

1. The public has the right of access to public information.

Government agencies should guarantee open, timely and uninhibited access to public information except where restricted by law. People should be able to access public information, regardless of its format, without any special training or expertise.

2. The Federal Government should guarantee the integrity and preservation of public information, regardless of its format.

By maintaining public information in the face of changing times and technologies, government agencies assure the government's accountability and the accessibility of the government's business to the public.

3. The Federal Government should guarantee the dissemination, reproduction, and redistribution of public information.

Any restriction of dissemination or any other function dealing with public information must be strictly defined by law.

4. The Federal Government should safeguard the privacy of persons who use or request information, as well as persons about whom information exists in government records.

5. The Federal Government should ensure a wide diversity of sources of access, private as well as governmental, to public information.

Although sources of access may change over time and because of advances in technology, government agencies have an obligation to the public to encourage diversity.

6. The Federal Government should not allow cost to obstruct the people's access to public information.

Costs incurred by creating, collecting and processing information for the government's own purposes should not be passed on to people who wish to utilize public information.

7. The Federal Government should ensure that information about government information is easily available and in a single index accessible in a variety of formats.

The government index of public information should be in addition to inventories of information kept within individual government agencies.

8. The Federal Government should guarantee the public's access to public information, regardless of where they live and work, through national networks and programs like the Depository Library Program.

Government agencies should periodically review such programs as well as the emerging technology to ensure that access to public information remains inexpensive and convenient to the public.

CONCLUSION

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science offers these Principles of Public Information as a foundation for the decisions made throughout the Federal Government and the nation regarding issues of public information. We urge all branches of the Federal Government, state and local governments and the private sector to utilize these principles in the development of information policies and in the creation, use, dissemination and preservation of public information. We believe that in so acting, they will serve the best interests of the nation and the people in the Information Age.

The National Commission also passed a resolution at its June meeting expressing its determination to follow up on the "Principles of Public Information" with a series of policy statements on actions needed to fully implement the "Principles."

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is a permanent, independent agency of the Federal Government charged with advising both Congress and the President on matters relating to national library and information policies and plans.

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RECOMMENDATION
9. Federal Libraries as Inherently Governmental Functions

ISSUE: How can high quality Federal information services be provided to key agency officials, policy makers, and program staff when library services are frequently not recognized as vital support services for fulfilling the agency's mission.

Priority: National
High

BACKGROUND: (See attached, following page.)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Urge Congress to designate Federal libraries and archives as "inherently governmental" functions, not subject to mandatory contracting out.
2. Request the President to instruct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove Federal libraries from the list of commercial activities included in OMB Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities," because those libraries are "inherently governmental" functions.
3. Request the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove "library" from the list of activities targeted for review throughout the Federal government for potential contracting out.

RECOMMENDATION
10. Locator System for Federal Information

ISSUE: How can the Federal Government provide a comprehensive access system to information generated by all Federal agencies?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That Congress mandate a comprehensive locator system for Federal public information, which will be established and maintained under the aegis of an appropriate Federal agency, and will include:

1. Reference to (or use of) existing systems;
2. Availability in all formats;
3. The development of standards for data elements, media, and formats as a federal standard;
4. Information generated by all governmental agencies;
5. Emphasis on increased resources sharing.

We further recommend that the Library of Congress and other national libraries, archives,and information centers identify resources needed to define and adopt standards to improve intellectual access to this and other bibliographic materials.

We further recommend that the Congress authorize and appropriate funds for the development and maintenance of the inventory, and that one funding resource be the the funds collected under the Freedom of Information Act which now must be returned to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

FEDERAL LIBRARIES AS GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

II. Background: The U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities," establishes federal policy regarding the operation of commercial activities and requires federal agencies to conduct cost comparisons to determine the most economical way to perform commercial activities—by private commercial source or in-house, using government facilities and personnel. The circular lists library services along with such things as vending machines, custodial services, laundry services and photography as examples of activities which are targeted for contracting out. Since 1984, libraries have been on an OMB list of functions targeted for A-76 review throughout the federal government. Agencies can also contract out functions with 10 or fewer employees without first conducting cost comparison studies, making small libraries doubly vulnerable.

The impetus to contract out commercial activities gained momentum in 1983, and since then a number of federal libraries have been turned over to the private sector for operation. An accurate count is difficult, but does include four cabinet-level federal libraries, three of them operated by the same foreign-owned company.

III. Questions for Discussion:

- Are federal libraries inherently governmental functions?
- Does contracting out federal libraries protect inherently governmental functions and the nation's information resources?
- Does contracting out only make government appear smaller when, in actuality, the taxpayers' money is paid to a contractor instead of government employees?
- What happens to the quality of service to the public when there is a less experienced and more transient work force in federal libraries?
- Are the claimed cost savings, efficiencies or economies accurate?
- Are dynamic long-term contract costs sufficiently considered, such as low buy-ins with escalating costs and contract modifications?
- What will be the long-term effects on government of lost accountability, lost knowledge from a stable civilian work force, lost managerial decision-making ability due to diminished in-house capabilities?
- Are national security and readiness jeopardized when responsibility for sensitive proprietary material is contracted out?
- Will contracting out federal libraries inhibit major technological changes that impact performance?

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IV. Suggested Solutions

1) Promote national recognition of the need to have federal library and information centers managed by qualified professional librarians who are employed as government employees by the agency for which they work.

2) Have references to "libraries" and "library services" deleted from OMB Circular A-76 so that library managers will be free to choose when, where, and how to make the best use of library support services contracts.

3) Encourage federal librarians to become more involved in government decision-making, especially concerning information policies and programs.

4) Urge the Federal Library and Information Center to conduct a government-wide survey/study of libraries that have been contracted out.

5) Encourage national, state, and local library professional associations to address the implications for the entire profession and all public sector libraries of the designation of federal libraries as "commercial activities".

V. Recommendations (National, high priority)

1) Urge Congress to designate federal libraries as inherently governmental functions, not subject to contracting out.

2) Request the President to instruct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove federal libraries from the list of commercial activities included in OMB Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities", because those libraries are inherently governmental functions.

3) Request the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove "library" from the list of activities targeted for review throughout the federal government for potential contracting out.

VI. Justification

1) Contracting of entire federal libraries threatens the continuity of essential information services to government decision makers and the public.

2) In times of tight budgets, contractor-libraries will be prime targets for elimination without regard to the information needs of the agency staff or the public.

VII. Implementing Strategies

VIII. Impact

1) Democracy: As integral parts of the agencies they serve, federal libraries provide public access to government information.

2) Productivity: The basic mission of a federal agency could well be compromised if the quality of its library or other information resouces deteriorates.

RECOMMENDATION
11. National Information Policy (Congressional)

ISSUE: The United States has no national information policy. There are a series of uncoordinated, disjointed information law, policies, and regulations, each addressing specific area., e.g., FOIA, security, telecommunications. How can the many, often inconsistent information policies be melded together?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That Congress be urged to enact an integrated, comprehensive national information policy, which establishes the value of information as a national resource, explains why a national information infrastructure is critical, how this structure shall be managed, what organizational structure will have a continuing responsibility for the oversight, and how the development and maintenance of the infrastructure should be funded.

RECOMMENDATION
12. Five-year White House Conference

ISSUE: There is a need to maintain momentum from the White House Conference and to track attainment of national information goals and priorities.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That an interim conference be held five years after each White House Conference, under the aegis of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, to assess the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the previous conference and to project further improvement in light of national needs.

RECOMMENDATION
13. Ten-year White House Conference

ISSUE: As a national resource, library and information services in the next decade should have national attention and input.

BACKGROUND:

At the White House Conference of I979, a resolution was passed by the entire Conference, that a White House or Federal Conference on Library and Information Service be held every decade to establish the national information goals and priorities for the next decade. This recommendation is to re-enforce this earlier commitment.

We note that the White House Conference 1979 resolution was first introduced at the Federal Pre-White House Conference.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that a White House Conference on Library and Information Service be held every decade, to establish the national goals and priorities in information policy for the next decade; to assure effective access, and increase of knowledge to all citizens, and to accomplish this goal in the light of rapid and innovative changes in technology and practice which are certain to occur.

Federal Delegates to WHCLIS II

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 3

2. Preconference Agenda and Minutes
- Agenda 4
- Minutes of Monday, November 26, 1990 6
- Minutes of Tuesday, November 27, 1990 11

3. Preconference Papers and Presentations
- Welcome and Introduction
  - Winston Tabb 18
  - Donald C. Curran 19

- Preconference Keynote Address
  - Peter R. Young 22

- Preservation Issue
  - Issue paper, annotated with text of Dr. Alan Fusonie's Speech 34

- Networking Issue
  - Issue Paper by Sarah A. Mikel 52
  - Outline of Dr. Neal Kaske's Presentation 58

- Funding Issue
  - Press Release from the National Agricultural Library 66

- Access Issue
  - Issue Paper by Kurt N. Molholm 68
  - Text of Dr. Fred B. Wood's Speech 76

4. WHCLIS II Delegate Selection Results
- WHCLIS II Delegates and Alternates 82
- Ballot 83
- Delegate Biographies 84

5. Report of the Resolutions Committee 92

6. Rosters
- Preconference Attendees 101
- Preconference Speakers 106
- Preconference Exhibitors 107
- FLAG and volunteers 108

7. Appendix
- Fact sheets 112
- Flag News Updates 116
- Acknowledgments 120

Introduction

In 1987, the federal information community began its work toward full participation in the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II). Federal librarians and information specialists organized a Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) Task Force for WHCLIS II.

In preparation for the Conference, the FLICC Task Force organized the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group, FLAG, which included four standing committees: Delegate and Participant Selection, Program/Issues/Logistics and Arrangements, Resolutions and Rules, and Public Relations/Exhibits/Hospitality. Two federal coordinators were selected to work with the Steering Committee under the guidance of FLICC, with support from a conference contractor.

After reviewing the recommendations from WHCLIS I (1979), several main areas of continuing concern were identified: access, networking, preservation, and funding. These core national issues were addressed under the umbrella of: "equal opportunity of access to federal information."

The preconference activity goals were to:

- Promote the theme of "citizen access to federal information resources through federal agency informational organizations." The guiding principle of the federal preconference was that "access is the key" for the improvement of information services to increase productivity, expand literacy, and strengthen democracy.
- Promulgate the cause of the federal library and information center program through interaction with the WHCLIS II process.

The preconference objectives were to:.

- Develop resolutions reflecting the consensus of the federal community on access, networking, and preservation.
- Elect delegates to the second White House Conference, scheduled for July 9-13, 1991 in Washington, D.C.

Another important outcome of the preconference was the identification of an agenda for FLICC's long range plans for federal library and information development, including the determination of how federal library and information center resources and services must be developed or expanded to meet agency and citizen needs.

Adelaide Del Frate
FLAG Steering Committee

Editorial Note: Proceedings of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services compiled January 11, 1991.

Federal Pre-White House Conference on
Library and Information Services

National Library of Medicine Lister Hill Center

Monday, November 26

7:30 a.m.	**Registration and coffee**	Lobby
8:30 a.m.	**Opening Ceremonies** **Welcome and Introduction** Donald C. Curran, *Chair, Acting Associate Librarian for Constituent Services, Library of Congress* **Administrative Announcements** Mary Berghaus Levering, J.D., *Executive Director, Federal Library and Information Center Committee* **Welcome** Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg, M.D., *Director, National Library of Medicine* Winston Tabb, *Acting Deputy Librarian, Library of Congress*	Lister Hill Auditorium
9:00 a.m.	**Keynote Address** Peter R. Young, *Executive Director U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science*	
9:45 a.m.	**General Session: Preservation** Alan Fusonie, Ph.D., *Head, Special Collections, National Agricultural Library*	
10:15 a.m.	**Break**	Side Lobby
10:30 a.m.	**Breakout Session: Preservation**	Breakout Rooms, Lower Level
11:45 a.m.	**General Session: Report of the Proposed Preservation Recommendations,** Breakout Session Moderators	Lister Hill Auditorium
12:30 p.m.	**Buffet Lunch** **Summary of WHCLIS Delegate Responsibilities and Introduction of Delegate Nominees** Moderator: Mary Berghaus Levering, *Executive Director, Federal Library and Information Center Committee*	Side Lobby
1:30 p.m.	**General Session: Networking** Neal Kaske, Ph.D. *Senior Associate, Office of Library Programs, U.S. Department of Education*	Lister Hill Auditorium
2:15 p.m.	**Breakout Session: Networking**	Breakout Rooms, Lower Level
3:15 p.m.	**Break**	Side Lobby
3:30 p.m.	**General Session: Report of the Proposed Networking Recommendations,** Breakout Session Moderators	Lister Hill Auditorium
4:30 p.m.	**Adjourn** Donald C. Curran	
5:00-7:00	**Reception:** **Joint Celebration of the Second Federal Pre-WHCLIS Conference and 25th Anniversary of FLICC**	Lobby

Federal Pre-White House Conference on
Library and Information Services

National Library of Medicine Lister Hill Center

Tuesday, November 27

7:30 a.m.	**Pick Up Monday Minutes & Coffee**	**Side Lobby**
8:00 a.m.	**Opening Remarks** Donald C. Curran	**Lister Hill Auditorium**
8:10 a.m.	**General Session: Funding** Joseph H. Howard, *Director, National Agricultural Library*	
8:45 a.m.	**General Session: Access Policies** Fred B. Wood, *Senior Associate, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment*	
9:15 a.m.	**Breakout Session: Access Policies**	**Breakout Rooms, Lower Level**
10:45 a.m.	**Break**	**Side Lobby**
11:00 a.m.	**General Session: Report of the Proposed Access Policies Recommendations,** Breakout Session Moderators	**Lister Hill Auditorium**
11:45 a.m.	**Recommendations from the Floor**	
12:30 p.m.	**Buffet Lunch** **Reports on Resolutions from Governors' Conferences on Libraries and Information Services** Margaret O'Hare, *Director of National Programs, WHCLIS*	**Side Lobby**
1:30 p.m.	**Report on Delegate Selection to the WHCLIS II**	**Lister Hill Auditorium**
1:45 p.m.	**Report of the Recommendations Committee** Christie Vernon, *Chair, Recommendations Committee*	
3:00 p.m.	**Break**	**Side Lobby**
3:15 p.m.	**Additional Discussion on Recommendations, if necessary**	**Lister Hill Auditorium**
4:15 p.m.	**Conference Wrap-Up** Donald C. Curran	
4:30 p.m.	**Adjourn**	

MINUTES OF THE FEDERAL PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Monday, November 26, 1990

The Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services was opened by Donald Curran, Acting Associate Librarian for Constituent Services. Mr. Curran welcomed the delegates, alternates and observers to the preconference by acknowledging the contributions made by the FLAG Steering Committee, the Issue Group committees, and the Moderators. He outlined the tasks of the delegates and reviewed the accomplishments of the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS).

Dr. Donald Lindberg, Director, National Library of Medicine (NLM), welcomed conference attendees to the NLM's Lister Hill Center. He discussed the achievement of one of NLM's priorities, the establishment of the National Center for Bio-Technology Information (thanks to the late Congressman, Claude Pepper, and his interest). Dr. Lindberg highlighted outreach and access as the top priorities for NLM and for the institutions and agencies represented by attendees. He continued to connect the importance of networking and preservation as critical issues for the Library of Medicine as well as for the preconference at large. In addition, he stressed the importance of the issue of toxicology of the environment and encouraged the attendees to consider the importance of this. Dr. Lindberg added that NLM/MLA have piloted a joint educational effort, and that NLM plans to have 17 overseas MEDLARS Centers. He closed with a cordial welcome to all.

Winston Tabb, Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress, welcomed the attendees on behalf of Dr. James Billington, The Librarian of Congress. He conveyed the strong support of the Library of Congress network for the important work of this Conference. He stressed that this federal delegation may be the most critical of any delegation at the White House Conference. "This small band will have to educate their fellow delegates about the importance of our (federal libraries) work and generate increased support for it."

Mr. Tabb was followed by Mary Berghaus Levering, Executive Director of FLICC. She acknowledged the efforts of the many individuals who contributed to the success of the preconference, and offered a special thanks to the sponsors of the Reception: the Special Libraries Association, the Medical Library Association, the American Law Library Association and the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, and the Federal Librarians Round Table of ALA. Delegates were instructed in the voting process for WHCLIS II candidates and were reminded that the candidates would speak during lunch in the breakout room downstairs. Ms. Levering noted that several changes in the ballot would be made and revised ballots would be available at the candidates forum.

The Keynote Speaker, Peter R. Young, Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, (NCLIS) was introduced by Mr. Curran. His address, "Federal Information Policies: Past, Present, and Future" set the stage for the preconference. He began by recapping the first White House Conference held in November 1979, noting that the focus was on policies for the 1980s. WHCLIS II, he suggested, offers an opportunity to focus on the 1990s when restructured concepts of time, space, and information are radically altering the world, organizations and policies. Mr. Young reminded the attendees that in 1988, Public Law 100-382 defined the purpose of the White House Conference "... to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the nation and their use by the public...." He went on to relate the WCHLIS II themes of Literacy, Democracy, and Productivity to the issues of Access policies, Networking and Preservation of this federal preconference. He added that not only will the White House Conference "focus attention on matters of general concern to the library and information service community, it will also identify a topic agenda for the National Commission" (the federal agency charged with planning and conducting the Conference). The Commission was established as an independent executive branch agency by Public Law 91-345 in 1970. Mr. Young emphasized that the concerns of the Federal Pre-White House Conference relate directly to the purpose of NCLIS and that recommendations from this preconference will serve as the basis for federal information issue topics to be addressed at NCLIS.

Mr. Young went on to discuss the relationship between White House Conferences I and II. In 1979 a national library act was being discussed--in 1990 the proposed creation of a national education and research network is being discussed. Between 1980 and 1989 the cost of a hardcover volume increased 70%, and the cost of the average periodical subscription increased 147%. In 1980 the library community was concerned with regional multi-state, multi-type library networks and in 1990 the community is concerned with a new national digital network that could provide access to the contents of different government information resources, efficiently and economically. In 1990, the community has shifted its attention to the concerns raised by the technological advances and the consequences they pose for networking and transferring information.

Next, Mr. Young noted that the access issues of the 1990s will attempt better to define, understand, and interpret the impact of electronic systems on access to information resources. He went on the discuss how the "hierarchical organizational structure appropriate to a 'pre-information age' industrial economy becomes obsolete in the 1990s web of information handling systems."

Mr. Young offered the possibility of federal information policy makers and government information network planners leading the way in the transformation of organizational structures for access to public information. The re-examination of the regulatory purpose and statutory intent which define federal information policies continues to be addressed. Mr. Young summarized the basis for federal information policies by reading the Preamble to the NCLIS Principles of Public Information. He followed this with several questions related to the government's provision of federal information. He added that the federal information environment is made more complex by the globalization of information issues and the critical element of economic competitiveness. In addition, Mr. Young suggested a redefinition of information may be in order, and he also suggested we may not be interested in promoting expanded access to more information, but "critical access to specific information at exactly the right moment." He offered that professionals who understand the structure and quality of information--you--must evaluate, select, and interpret ideas from conflicting and competitive information sources and perspectives. "Only by careful and professional evaluation of disparate sources can effective personal judgments, choices, and decisions be made. The need to understand the changing economics of information and to carefully define the social value of information become critical in developing a coherent framework for National information policies which takes into account the international character of the issues and the need for all segments of the information sector to be presented and heard in the process. We need to look forward to the formation of strategic alliances among information partners to ensure that the benefits of the open unrestricted exchange of information are consistent with the protection of individual rights, appropriate economic incentives, and the sovereignty concerns of our Nation in the 21st century." (Full text of Mr. Young's speech is included in the Proceedings)

Dr. Alan Fusonie presented a summary of the Preservation paper contained in the preconference resource notebook. He highlighted the need for new and different responses to address the on-going and increasing preservation problems and challenges. Specifically, he asserted that the nation's archival and library administrators must play an even stronger role in defending critical preservation needs. Developing a nationwide preservation education awareness strategy was one goal he stressed. Another critical response to the challenge of protecting archival and library collections throughout the U.S. is to make their environmental and storage control a clear budgetary priority.

In addition, Dr. Fusonie spoke of the importance of encouraging contributions from the private sector to ensure the longevity of electronically produced information. In conclusion, he asserted the need for agency administrators and library directors to take a "more informed and pro-active role in articulating their respective library and archival preservation needs." He contended the beneficiaries of the archival and library held information must develop a stronger sense of "financial stewardship towards preserving knowledge for future generations."

Dr. Neal Kaske, Senior Associate, Office of Library Programs, Department of Education, began the afternoon session by discussing Networking. He reiterated the three issues to be discussed at WHCLIS II and the relationship of Networking to the goals of the Conference. Dr. Kaske challenged the attendees with five questions:

1. How can federal libraries and information centers effectively meet their role to serve the government entity for which they were created and also serve the general public?
2. How can the federal library community continue to exert leadership and increase its effectiveness in the implementation of existing standards and the development new technology?
3. How can the federal library resources,including the databases of individual agencies, be made available in a network mode?
4. How do we ensure that funding is sufficient to deliver information services to federal library users and what specific changes can we make to improve user service and to become more efficient and cost-effective?
5. How can the federal library community create a mechanism to share its expertise as national information policy is being formulated and as legislation is being developed?

Dr. Kaske offered the concept of Virtual Reality as a possible answer to these questions. He continued with a discussion of current technology and how networking systems cut horizontally across vertical organizations. He suggested a link between the federal library networks and NREN, and a recognition of the increasing role of the federal library and information center community as a provider of all types of information and participant in the development of national standards for electronic transfer of bibliographic data. He concluded by emphasizing the development of a coordinated and integrated database and access protocol for the federal resources, the utilization of FEDLINK, development mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing within the federal library community to minimize duplication of effort, and a way to ensure the role of the federal library community in formation of national information policies.

The recommendations on both Preservation and Networking issues are appended and they serve as a summary of the breakout sessions and general sessions on each issue.

Day I of the Conference concluded with a reception celebrating the 25th Anniversary of FLICC and the Second Federal Pre-WHCLIS Conference.

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

MINUTES OF FEDERAL PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE -- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1990

Donald Curran, Chair, opened the second day of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services by welcoming the attendees. He was followed by Mary Berghaus Levering, Executive Director, FLICC. She called the delegates' attention to the packet of minutes and recommendations from Monday's session, reminded the delegates that any recommendations coming from the floor must be submitted in writing before 10:00 a.m., and reiterated that voting for WCHLIS II delegates closed at 12:30 p.m. Ms. Levering responded to questions from several alternates who inquired about the possibility of alternates replacing delegates who had not attended the first day's proceedings. She noted that this would be appropriate; however, alternates could only replace missing delegates in the same category they represented. Special thanks were given to Linda Goodwin and the Lister Hill staff for their superb attention to the conference, to the conference contract support for their assistance, and to the many volunteers from federal agencies for their talents and insights.

Donald Curran then introduced Joseph Howard, Director of the National Agricultural Library. Mr. Howard began by telling the attendees that the session on funding was particularly relevant to the issue they were all facing -- how to do more with less money. He reflected on the decade of the sixties when funding was plentiful and then on the decade of the eighties when funding was scarce. He alluded to a time of "retrenchment that requires that we work more closely together", and he expressed his hope that simple networking among librarians will offer opportunities for all of us to speak with a bigger voice that could be heard by the President and Congress. Mr. Howard suggested that librarians should spend some profitable time convincing others to support their issues. Next he focused the discussion on "fees for service" by presenting the following questions for discussion:

Should we charge for services?
Has the American public already paid for these services through their taxes?
Are we allowed to charge for services -- do we have the proper authorization through legislation?
If we charge, what should we charge for?
What do we do about the disadvantaged that can't come in to the library to use the services? What about the people that live outside the Washington, D.C. area?
Should we charge for inter-library loans? If we do

charge, what should we charge for? Photocopying? Faxing? Postage?

Do we charge for answering reference questions?

Do we charge or are we allowed to have a current awareness literature service for our own employees? For employees outside our agencies? If we do charge, who should be charged? Other agencies? Own agency? Non-federal people? Do we charge foreigners?

How do we keep track of the money?

Where does the money go that we get? Can the library keep it and use it for services or does it go to the U.S. Treasury?

At this point, Mr. Howard reminded the attendees that every issue discussed at the conference has a funding implication. After emphasizing the importance of working together to address the issues, he facilitated a discussion with the attendees. A delegate asked, "Why charge for services when really all that is being done is shifting money from one government pot to another?" Donald Curran answered and discussed the working fund transfer and mentioned that the "Library of Congress will be seeking additional legislation to create a more appropriate fiscal vehicle to serve the other federal agencies by creating revolving funds." He explained what is presently being done to address this issue. Next the discussion shifted to concerns about equity and the administrative barriers created. One delegate pointed out that there is a cost to users whether it is monetary or some other kind of cost. An analogy of the post office versus private carriers (UPS and Federal Express) was offered to illustrate that perhaps libraries would benefit by charging for services. Another delegate mentioned that her agency was getting pressure to charge for services, and that she had devised a plan to charge for certain types of services.

Mr. Howard and Maria Pisa, National Agricultural Library (NAL), reviewed the NAL's charge polices. The discussion shifted to private vendors charging for database information and the possibilities of private sector partnerships. Ideas from the floor were offered stressing the inevitable change in user habits when charges are levied, the change in liability when libraries charge, and the fact that information does have an economic good. One delegate reminded the attendees that when a library is a member of the depository library program, it is required to provide free information to users. Other concerns expressed related to the dependency of libraries on one another for information, the concern about small libraries not getting their fair share of attention, and the issue of how the nation at large perceives the importance of the information infrastructure.

Mr. Howard asked the library community to consider possibilities for action on these important issues. "We feel it is better to be able to do something for others than not to offer the services," he added. In closing, Mr. Howard asked the group to consider what services should be excluded from charges, how to decide which things are of the highest priority, and how to develop a unified position and support for policy changes. He emphasized that the library sector needs the support of national associations to champion their unified policies. One delegate offered a comment about the importance of resource sharing when considering funding issues. As a final comment, a delegate emphasized how "the library community must stand together as a unified force in making policies and stop working against its own best interests." Mr. Howard acknowledged that this comment was an appropriate place to end and thanked the participants for their insights.

Mr. Curran emphasized that the issue of funding is a crucial factor in the three issues being discussed at the conference. He referred to FEDLINK as "one giant buying consortium" that stands as an example to reinforce the importance of working together. Mr. Curran introduced Dr. Fred B. Wood to discuss the issue of Access.

Dr. Wood opened his presentation by explaining his interest in the issue of access. Making specific reference to the Congressional Office of Technology Assesment (OTA) publication, Helping America Compete -- the Role of Federal STI, he emphasized that OTA would "stay in the ballgame until we get a copy, signed by President Bush and Science Advisor Bromley, that says... implement." Emphasizing the important timing of this conference and the increased level of activity around the issue of access in the last couple of years, Dr. Wood reminded the attendees of another OTA Report, Informing the Nation, completed two years ago. At that time, four questions were directed at the newly elected President Bush and the Congress:

1. Are we as a nation, going to reaffirm our commitment to the importance of federal information in an electronic age?
2. Are we going to reaffirm our commitment to public access as our first priority of government information policy?
3. Are we going to give information dissemination and access to that information a high priority in federal agency automation?
4. Are we as a nation going to permit and encourage our government-wide information dissemination agencies to participate fully in the electronic age?

Dr. Wood told the attendees that the information policy community has answered these questions with a resounding "yes."

He continued with a review of what had been accomplished: first, a heightened level of interagency activity within the federal government (e.g. CENDI, Interagency Working Group for Global Change); second, several congressional committees and subcommittees have held hearings; third, OTA, Congressional Research Service (CRS), Government Accounting and others have issued a number of reports that have focused attention on information policy issues. In addition, Dr. Wood noted the efforts of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and those of the professional groups (American Library Association, American Civil Liberties Union, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility) in rising to the occasion.

Dr. Wood continued by stressing the need for additional work by the delegates relating to the themes of the conference. "Beyond what has been done is the priority to extend the understanding we have to the broader society, and especially to the educational, scientific, research, business and consumer communities." Dr. Wood pointed out that to build on the past two years' work and to ensure a successful conference, attention must be paid to these priorities.

In addition, Dr. Wood listed ten principles of public access. (Refer to Dr. Wood's speech) He reiterated that the challenge was to choose which principles the attendees wished to select to send on to WCHLIS II. At this point, Dr. Wood added an eleventh principle: federal libraries and information centers are an inherently governmental function and vital to ensuring public access to federal information. As such, federal libraries and information centers should not be subject to mandatory privatization or contracting out and should be exempted from Office of Management's (OMB's) Circular A-76.

A discussion of legislation followed. Dr. Wood moved on to discuss outreach and the necessity to move beyond simply the information policy community. He emphasized that to be effective, recommendations coming from the WHCLIS must be specific, only then connections to the broader community can be made. He offered Global Change and Elementary and Secondary Education as examples of ways to reach out to the broader community. These two areas illustrate how federal information is essential. Project JEDI was offered as an example of how federal information can be brought home to the American people.

In conclusion, Dr. Wood emphasized that the tasks of the federal preconference are to articulate a policy direction and to articulate why the public and the nation should care about federal information. He ended with a reference to "Star Trek-the New Generation"--drawing the parallel that it is within the grasp of the federal government to make information systems of this fantasy a reality and, at the

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same time, get the support of the broader community. A spirited discussion followed.

Dr. Wood was asked which office or agency would provide oversight in the Information Resource Management (IRM) lifecycle. His response indicated that it should be included in the agency infrastructure and that decision-making should be within the agencies. He added that statutory regulations need to be met, but all agencies must ensure public access to information they create. The House report states the highest priority is public access. A delegate pointed out that the mission of the individual agency must be taken into account as well. Kurt Molholm, Defense Technical Information Center, who authored the preconference paper on "Access," noted that sometimes the media and the message get confused. Getting the information out is the first function. The format should not restrict the message. Dr. Wood pointed out that the Freedom of Information Act is the great fallback. He went on to emphasize that he views dissemination as subordinate to public access, and that the starting point of federal policy is that federal information is in the public domain.

Christine Vernon, St. Leo's College, asked for a clarification of where information oversight stands today. Dr. Wood responded by stating that Congressional guidance is operative and agencies should follow that guidance until OMB issues a corrected and amended Circular A-130. Another delegate mentioned that in government information policy there is a division between information and records -- an artificial division in the electronic age. She offered this to highlight that access is not only a current issue but also a long-term issue. In addition, she reminded the delegates that certain information will be lost in the electronic age unless there is a defined government policy that takes into account the life cycle of information. Dr. Wood concurred with the delegate's concern.

Several delegates continued the discussion by offering insights about CD-ROM replication and access. The discussion ended with Dr. Wood's acknowledging that there are several interpretation issues related to CD-ROM.

Mr. Curran thanked Dr. Wood before the attendees headed for the "Access" breakout sessions. Once the attendees returned to the auditorium, Mr. Curran mentioned that twelve recommendations had been submitted from the floor and that copies of same were being distributed. Discussion of these recommendations followed the presentations of breakout session moderators. The morning continued with a spirited discussion of the recommendations offered. The final recommendations, endorsed by the voting delegates, are to be included in the preconference Proceedings. As requested by the Resolutions Committee, no information pertaining to recommendations in draft form or amendments discussed are included in the minutes.

Mr. Curran complimented the delegates on their fine work. Ms. Levering reminded the attendees that Margaret O'Hare, from the second White House Conference on Library and Information Service (WHCLIS II), would be the luncheon speaker, and that she would discuss recommendations that WHCLIS has received.

The afternoon session began with Mr. Curran's introducing Ms. Vernon and explaining her role as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Next Mr. Curran announced the results of the WHCLIS II delegate selection:

1. Information Professionals:
   Delegate -- Elisabeth S. Knauff, Chief, Information Services Division, U.S. Treasury Department
   Alternate -- Doria Beachell Grimes, Database Management Specialist, NTIS
2. Government Officials:
   Delegate -- Gary North, U.S. Geological Survey
   Alternate -- Kurt Molholm, Defense Technical Information Center
3. Advisory Boards:
   Delegate -- Bonnie Carroll, President, Information International
   Alternate -- Egon Weiss, Retired Library Director, U.S. Military Academy
4. Citizens/Users:
   Delegate -- Davis McCarn, President, Online Information International, Inc.
   Alternate -- Donald W. King, King Research

Mr. Curran congratulated the newly elected delegates and pledged the support of the Library of Congress. The WHCLIS II delegates and alternates were asked to stand.

Ms. Vernon mentioned that the committee processed thirteen recommendations and referred the attendees to the packet they had in hand. She carefully explained the procedure for amendments and additions. She moved the adoption of Document #1. The afternoon continued with each recommendation being discussed and considered.

Thirteen recommendations were approved by the delegates and referred to the committee to be refined. The finalized document list of the thirteen resolutions was:

1. **Preservation plan for Federal libraries**
2. **National preservation policy**
3. **National networking policy**
4. **Multi-type Federal library and info. center network**
5. **Depository library program**
6. **Fees for service**
7. **Endorsement of the NCLIS public information principles**

8. Knowledge transfer systems as national priority
9. Libraries as inherently governmental functions
10. Locator system for federal information
11. National information policy (Congressional)
12. Five-year White House Conference
13. Ten-year White House Conference

The final recommendations will be included in the Proceedings. See "Report of the Resolutions Committee," page 92, for a list of final recommendations.

The final session of the federal preconference ended at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome, Pre-White House Conference for Federal Librarians
Winston Tabb, Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress
November 26, 1990, NLM

I am pleased to join Dr. Lindberg in welcoming you, on behalf of the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, to this very important pre-White House Conference.

Since you have a packed agenda, I will be brief. I mainly want to convey the very strong support of the Librarian and the Library of Congress for next summer's White House Conference, to which this pre-conference is but one of many preludes. As Dr. Billingtion has said, "The White House Conference represents a major opportunity to bring home to both policymakers and the public at large the importance of libraries and information services to the future health of America's democratic government, its economy, and the opportunities open to its citizens."

Unfortunately, however, the important role of the national libraries and other federal libraries in facilitating citizen access to information is not sufficiently recognized. Thus, the theme your organziers have chosen for this pre-conference is particularly apt; and the role of the delegates you choose at this pre-conference will be perhaps the most critical of any delegation at next summer's meeting: This small band will have to educate their fellow delegates about the importance of our work and generate increased support for it.

Having been present, as a member (representing Dr. Billington) of the White House Conference Advisory Committee, when Mary Levering and her colleagues convinced the Committee last year that you--we--Federal librarians deserved representation at the White House conference, I am very optimistic about our chances of success. But we've got a lot of work to do--so let's get started.

Thank you, and best wishes for a successful conference.

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Donald C. Curran
Acting Associate Librarian for Constituent Services
Library of Congress
Opening Remarks at the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services
Monday, November 26, 1990

In my capacity as chair of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to this representative gathering of the federal sector of the library and information center community.

During these two days of sessions, it will be your responsibility, on behalf of your peers, first to craft the federal agenda regarding the crucial issues facing the community, in preparation for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services in Washington, D.C. next July, and then to select from among your peers four delegates and four alternates to represent you on these issues at WHCLIS II.

You need not be forewarned that you can expect to confront and absorb a lot of material as the preconference moves to take its stand on the issues, to draft resolutions related to its themes, and to select those who will represent it.

We are meeting in a research setting -- the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications -- that is most conducive to such a sharing of ideas. For this fortunate circumstance we have to thank Dr. Donald Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine.

Your efforts here at the Lister Hill Center will be the latest milestone in a professional collaboration that began a quarter of a century ago when the need for cooperative efforts in the community was recognized with the founding of the then Federal Library Committee, now the Federal Library and Information Center Committee, the sponsor of your meeting. FLICC is officially celebrating its 25th anniversary of service today, an occasion that is being marked by a reception later in the day and the first distribution of a special commemorative issue of the *FLICC Newsletter* tracing FLICC's first quarter century -- and a remarkable one it has been, as you will be to see in the issue for yourselves.

The next milestone in our professional collaboration came over a decade ago in 1979 with the convening of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services. With 900 delegates representing more than 100,000 citizens, and with 3,000 observers, it was the largest White House Conference so far in history. The aftershocks of that first conference were felt throughout the 1980s: the founding of the Friends of Libraries USA and its raising of millions in support of libraries, major increases in appropriations through the Library Services and Construction Act, expanded priorities under the act on behalf of the handicapped, and the development of statewide resource sharing plans.

Those were exceptional accomplishments and the first conference clearly set a standard that challenges us today. For the last four years, several members of the federal community were more than willing to meet that challenge. They have been meeting under FLICC sponsorship as a group -- appropriately enough called FLAG for Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group. These fellow professionals have been diligently laying the groundwork for this preconference, which is occurring along with a series of state preconferences throughout the country, all leading to WHCLIS II in 1991. It would be most appropriate if we take a moment now to introduce each member of the FLAG steering committee, ask them to rise, and extend our thanks to them for their selfless contributions.

Elizabeth Yeates, the current chair, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dorothy Cross, the former chair, Pentagon Library
Adelaide Del Frate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Pat Dobrosky, U.S. Customs Service
Kathryn Earnest, Coordinator, Pentagon Library
Doria Grimes, Coordinator, National Technical Information Service
Sigrid Harriman, Library of Congress
Elisabeth Knauff, Treasury Library
Mary Berghaus Levering, executive director of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee
Karen Renninger, Department of Veterans Affairs Library
Nell Strickland, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center
Chris Zirps, Federal Library and Information Center Committee

You will shortly be hearing from a series of speakers and considering their papers. At this point we acknowledge the contributions of the authors of two papers who will not be directly addressing the sessions.

Sarah Mikel, Army Corps of Engineers, was the author of the paper on networks, and Kurt Molholm, Defense Technical Information Center, was the author of the paper on access.

All of the preliminary work that we have acknowledged, and that of your own during these two days, is a preparation for the second White House Conference. As Congress acknowledged in calling for a second conference, economic, social, and political factors have changed significantly since 1979. And the technology of information organization, retrieval, and access has evolved rapidly. So it is entirely appropriate that we look at libraries through the focus of a second conference.

The goal, in President Bush's words, is to insure the U.S. remains a global leader in the twenty-first century. In announcing the second conference last year, President Bush stated: "Our ability to stay ahead depends in large part on our ability to stay informed." He is calling on both the private and public sectors to work together to enhance and improve our nation's library services and information systems to increase productivity, expand literacy, and strengthen democracy.

Both this preconference and the second conference itself are sure to be tugged in many directions. Congress, when it passed legislation authorizing the conference, was concerned over library cutbacks and the spiraling costs facing libraries. The President has centered many of his comments on the need to stay technologically ahead. The White House Design Group proposed the three overarching themes of literacy, productivity, and democracy. FLAG itself has focused on four areas of critical importance: access, networking, preservation, and funding. You have much to chew on.

You will be considering these issues and proposing the federal sector's resolutions against the backdrop of a time of great change. One aspect of that change was voiced in the *Washington Post* just last week when Princeton professor Alvin Kernan sounded what he called the death of literature and the end of the high age of print, leading to severe disturbances currently in society. There are many ominous signs at the end of the Gutenberg era, according to Professor Kernan, and he pointed especially to "Columbia University's recent decision to close its prestigious library school on the grounds that the professional study of books and their management no longer has a place in a research university. Nor is Columbia alone; 14 prestigious library schools have closed in recent years, including those at the University of Chicago, the University of Southern California, and Vanderbilt University."

Just as important as the topics you address -- and the background against which they occur -- is how you address them. Surely the quantity of your material preparations will not be at issue. By definition, as professionals you are certain to be thorough and spare no effort in arriving at a conclusion you deem satisfactory. But the fact materials are prepared does not mean necessarily they are understood. And the fact statements are referenced does not mean necessarily that issues are being aired. And the fact documents are compiled does not mean necessarily that positions are taken.

I urge you: Do not passively accept materials given to you, but actively seek to understand the issues. Do not be content to let others delineate the issues, but join with gusto in the debates that will be shaping the future of your profession. Do not by default let pieces of paper resulting from these sessions be the sole voice of your profession, but go in person to your peers, pointing out what this preconference has said.

There are some who might say, "Why bother?" My answer is that you would not be here if you did not realize the importance to our constituencies of our participation in a federal preconference. Make your views known to your peers on this point as well as the issues. Only in this way will federal librarians--and others interested in federal libraries and information centers--be prepared properly to participate in WHCLIS II.

As you craft that agenda, it would be advisable to keep sight of the larger perspective. In a global review of developments in the library community published in the *Economist* magazine this past year, the editors said, "the question that arises, when all is said and done, is what people at the dawn of the twenty-first century expect a library to be."

The editors already see a sharp dichotomy arising around the world, one that will be familiar to preconference participants, between those who envisage libraries of the future as shops or franchises stressing fast delivery of information, and, on the other hand, those who see libraries devoted to primary functions of displaying and providing knowledge, allowing sheer information to be provided in some way by telephone services and computerized storehouses.

I urge you, delegates and other participants to the federal preconference, to go about your work carefully. You will help define that library of the dawn of the twenty-first century and you will do it here.

I now ask Mary Berghaus Levering, the newly named executive director of FLICC, to brief us on the preconference's administrative matters.

Peter R. Young
Federal Pre-White House Conference
on Libraries and Information Services
"Federal Information Policies: Past, Present, and Future"
Keynote Address
9:00 - 9:45 am
26 November 1990

I. Introduction

It is a pleasure for me to join you today at the Federal Pre-White House Conference. This occasion is special for me as it is for those concerned with our Nation's government information policies and services. I bring you greetings from Charles E. Reid, Chairman of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science as well as from Richard Akeroyd, Chairman of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Advisory Committee. Also, I am especially delighted to be able to introduce Jean M. Curtis, Executive Director of the White House Conference.

This Federal Pre-White House Conference provides an opportunity to carefully discuss and contribute to planning future national information policies related to federal or "public" information. The first White House Conference took place in November 1979. It was, in effect, a chance to talk about the 1980's. Today, we have the opportunity to think about the 1990's. Effective long range strategic planning requires a special sensitivity to time. In our post-industrial society, time is the key resource. Restructured concepts of time, space, and information are radically altering our world, our organizations, and our policies. Our success in the next decade as a nation, as a government, and as information workers depends upon our ability to understand these forces of change and to develop ways of adapting our behavior, our organizational structures, and our nation's information policies to address the challenges and opportunities which we will encounter.

My talk this morning focuses on long term strategic federal information issues. Briefly, my topics this morning are four: First, I'm going to tell you something about the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and, especially, the relationship of the WHCLIS to NCLIS. Second, I am going to describe some of the key issues related to the theme of this Federal Conference: "Access is the key". Third, I am going to relate these federal information issues to some general "Principles of Public Information". Finally, I will provide some brief observations about global information changes of the next decade.

II. Why Hold a Second WHCLIS?

Public Law 100-382 (Aug. 8, 1988) defines the purpose of the White House Conference "...to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the Nation and their use by the public...." The three White House Conference themes are library and information services for

Literacy, Democracy, and Productivity. These three themes relate to the Federal Pre-White House Conference three core issues: access policies, networking, and preservation.

The White House Conference process provides more than an opportunity to focus attention on matters of general concern to the library and information service community. It will also identify a topic agenda for the National Commission, which is the federal agency charged with planning and conducting the Conference. In essence, the Conference process defines issues and topics which will form the core of the Commission's work for the next decade.

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was established as an independent executive branch agency on July 20, 1970 by Public Law 91-345. It has "...the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on...." the policies required to assure optimum provision of library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States.

The issues and concerns of this Federal Pre-White House Conference relate directly to the purpose of NCLIS. WHCLIS enabling legislation addresses this point in stating that "...access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government...."

The Federal Pre-White House Conference is a key event in a process that concludes with the national White House Conference planned for Washington, D.C., July 9-13, 1991. Recommendations resulting from this Federal Conference will serve as the basis for federal information issue topics to be addressed at the national conference this summer. In addition, those delegates elected to represent the Federal information community at the national conference fulfill key roles in presenting Federal Pre-White House Conference recommendations on the three core issues of access policies, networking, preservation, and funding. It is particularly important that issues related to each of the various types of libraries (academic, public, school, and special) be raised at the national Conference. This is why it is critical that the federal library and information community identify federal information topics of specific concern for consideration at the national Conference.

III. Relationship between White House Conferences I and II

As a means of understanding the relation between the 1979 and the 1991 Conferences, a few general "then and now" comparisons are useful:

- In 1980, draft legislation for a national library act was being discussed, while in 1990, discussion centers on the proposed creation of a national education and research network. Over the last decade, topics of discussion have moved from online cataloging, information retrieval, and integrated library systems to global network technologies, electronic publishing, and the "Digital Library".

- In 1980, the average price of a commercially published US hardcover volume was $23.57. In 1989, a US hardcover volume has an average price of $40.10. (+70%) Similarly, in 1980, the average periodical subscription to a US title was $34.54. In 1989, a US periodical subscription averaged $85.37. (+147%)

- In 1980, we were concerned with regional multi-state, multi-type library networks based on the need for shared access to bibliographic citations, catalog records, and institutional holdings data. In 1990, we are concerned with a new national digital network which could provide access to the contents of many different government information resources in an efficient, economical manner - in light of the realities of our existing economy, a rapidly changing technology, and established principles of both public domain and proprietary government information products.

- OCLC's total FY 1979 operating revenue was $22.6 million. In FY 1990, OCLC's total member service revenues were over $93.5 million. (+314%)

- We have shifted the focus of our concerns from office automation to desktop publishing, from work station computing to distributed computing environments, from hardware and software to multi-media technology, from network governance structures to inter-operability of networked systems, and from a concern about the impact of photocopying on copyright to a concern for balancing the rights of intellectual property owners and users in a technological society where it is becoming increasingly convenient to electronically transfer information in digital form to many simultaneous users.

IV. "Access is the Key" Theme

In all likelihood, federal information access issues of the 1990's will continue to build on the basic issues of the 1980's. Ten years ago, librarians, citizens, active library and information supporters, and government officials met in an attempt to better define, understand, and interpret the impact of electronic systems on access to information resources. Today, we continue struggling to better understand this transformation, created by the further development (and enablement) of information technology. Increasingly, today, ownership and control issues are viewed as central to an awareness of the creative freedom provided by decentralized network access to information resources.

After more than a decade of discussing the changes brought by information technology, there is growing realization that we are experiencing a basic structural adjustment caused by the widespread adoption of electronic information and communication technologies. Rapid technological change increasingly exposes the rigidity of our hierarchical organizational structures and policies. This is true both in private commercial organizations and in the federal information sector. In both areas, the hierarchical organizational structure appropriate to a "pre-information age" industrial economy becomes obsolete in the post-industrial technological web of information handling systems.

V. "Principles of Public Information"

The next decade offers an exciting opportunity to plan for transition to new organizational structures for access to public information based on relational network information architectures that provide integrated service opportunities. These new models overcome the old structural limitations that impede our ability to take advantage of opportunities for expanding access to public information. Changes in the information network and communications industries in general offer federal information policy makers and government information network planners the chance to lead in this rapidly evolving transformation.

Public information policies are facing a basic transition centering on access to federal information. Recently, questions about the efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness of various federal printing and government library programs have provided Congressional policy analysts the motivation to re-examine the regulatory purpose and statutory intent which define federal information policies. The effort to re-define and revise the statutory basis of these federal information policies has now been in process for over a decade. Issues related to cost effectiveness and technological efficiency, at times, appear to conflict with the equal and open access to public information.

In order to place these issues into context, we need to review the principles which serve as the basis for our federal information policies. As stated in the Preamble to the NCLIS Principles of Public Information which was approved as a major Federal policy document on June 29, 1990:

> "With the coming of the Information Age and its many new technologies...public information has expanded so quickly that basic principles regarding its creation, use, and dissemination are in danger of being neglected and even forgotten. NCLIS

reaffirms that the information policies of the US government are based on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and on the recognition of public information as a national resource to be developed and preserved in the public interest....We assert that public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law."

Concerns about the principles and policies related to public information give rise to the following questions related to the government's provision of federal information:

- How should government information policies be structured and coordinated to make optimal use of network information technology?

- How should access to federal information be legislated and regulated? What federal agencies should be responsible for public information policies?

- What government publication, printing, and distribution functions should be centralized and which functions should be decentralized?

- What should be the interaction between government, academic and other not-for-profit entities, and the private sector information industry stakeholders, including value-added distributors, in meeting the needs of our citizens with regard to access to and dissemination of government information? What federal library services, printing, and dissemination should be done by private concerns by contract with the government and which should be done within the federal sector?

- What bibliographic control and indexes should be provided to facilitate timely provision of adequate bibliographic control and sufficient index access to government information, in all formats from whatever sources?

- What pricing policies for access to federal information are appropriate for online systems and networks from both public and private sources?

- Should federal agencies be charged for access to government information? How should federal information access prices be established?

- How cost effective is inter-agency resource sharing among the various federal libraries and information centers?

- What security and privacy controls are appropriate for public access to various types of federal information?

- What constitutes a government publication and how should federal electronic publishing be defined?

Key federal information issues related to access arise from a rich and complex mix of federal information activities and responsibilities. The federal government is involved in a complex array of information processes related to the production, creation, publication, printing, reproduction, processing, dissemination, collection, selection, acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval, use, retention, archiving, and transfer of information. These processes are changing in response to the general format shift away from paper and microfiche towards an electronic digital transfer of information.

Understanding the complex access issues related to federal information policies is a formidable task. In general, the federal information environment is made more complex by the globalization of information issues. Information is increasingly viewed as a strategic competitive resource which plays a critical role in the emerging knowledge-based society of the 21st century. Understanding how our Nation's information policies relate to the policies of other industrial nations, especially those of Japan and a unified Germany, is central to future relationships between our Capitalist democracy and other nation's industrial-governmental alliances.

Information access has been identified by some as a critical element for economic competitiveness. On the other hand, there are those who are concerned about the "non-information explosion" we are experiencing, where additional masses of data provide neither enlightenment nor knowledge. Words and phrases like "mis-information," "dis-information," and "information explosion" describe problems related to an excess of access. The mere fact that more data are available does not mean that people either want access to more information or can use expanded access effectively.

Perhaps we need a more careful look at the definition of what we mean when we speak of "information." Traditionally it means the act of informing or the condition of being informed. To inform is to impart information, to give form or character to, or animate or inspire with a particular quality or character. Information relates to the communication of knowledge, or to knowledge derived from study, experience, or instruction. Knowledge derives from the process people use to understand and analyze information.

Perhaps what we are interested in promoting is not expanded access to more information, but critical access to specific information at exactly the right moment. This perspective recognizes that information in and of itself does not solve problems. In reality, narrow, biased, or wrong information often creates problems. In order to be effectively applied, ideas from conflicting or competitive information sources and perspectives must be evaluated, selected, and interpreted by professionals who understand the structure and quality of information. These professionals are those librarians and information specialists who manage our federal libraries and information concerns.

Only by careful and professional evaluation of disparate sources can effective personal judgments, choices, and decisions be made. This theory or principle rests upon the same tenet that supports our democratic form of government. That is, the informed citizen is the best judge of rightness and the truth based on a personal consideration of the choices presented by various (sometimes conflicting) information streams from a multitude of diverse sources, authorities, and points of view. As James Madison has written:

> "A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

VI. Global Information Changes of the 1990's

The information environment of the next decade will continue to be driven by the rapid pace of technological change, the disintermediation of information services, and evolutionary shifts in the roles of the functional partners forming the information creation, collection, organization, storage, use, and dissemination life cycle. The need to understand the changing economics of information and to carefully define the social value of information become critical in developing a coherent framework for National information policies which takes into account the international character of the issues and the need for all segments of the information sector to be presented and heard in the process. We need to look forward to the formation of strategic alliances among information partners to ensure that the benefits of the open and unrestricted exchange of information are consistent with the protection of individual rights, appropriate economic incentives, and the sovereignty concerns of our Nation in the 21st century.

PRESERVATION: INTEGRITY OF OUR NATION'S RECORDS AT RISK

BY

DR. ALAN FUSONIE

Dr. Alan Fusonie, National Agricultural Library, prepared the following paper for the Federal Pre-White House Conference on November 26 - 27, 1990. The opinions expresssed are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Agricultural Library.

TITLE OF PAPER: PRESERVATION: INTEGRITY OF OUR NATION'S RECORDS AT RISK

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Lister Hill Center
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DATE: November 26-27, 1990

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Alan Fusonie is an Historian and Librarian with the National Agricultural Library and is a part-time Professor of American History at Prince George's Community College. Over the years, Dr. Fusonie has been involved in the development, preservation, access and interpretation of manuscripts, art, rare books, photos, audiovisuals, and a variety of ephemeral research materials. He has administered many commercial restoration contracts - first with Carolyn Horton and Associates and then with the the Northeast Document and Conservation Center. Having authored a number of historic bibliographies, articles and books, Dr. Fusonie has also served as a panelist, consultant and lecturer in the areas of agricultural history and library preservation. Currently, Dr. Fusonie is an active spokesman for the application and benefits of laser disc technology in libraries, archives and museums. In local community affairs, Dr. Fusonie is a member of the Calvert County Historic District Commission and the Friends of Calvert County Library, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the American Land Trust.

ISSUES

How does one insure that part of a Federal library or archives budget is expended on collection preservation?

How do we achieve recommended environmental standards in all Federal archives and libraries?

How should mass deacidification and other new technologies for preserving information be obtained by Federal archives and libraries?

How should Federal Libraries and Archives seek to influence those involved in the development of non-traditional devices and systems in affecting the recording and storage of information?

PRESERVATION: INTEGRITY OF OUR NATION'S RECORDS AT RISK

I. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for that kind introduction. What a beautiful morning and what a truly outstanding, modern facility. Standing up behind the high-tech podium with two T.V. screens, I feel like Captain Kirk and the auditorium is theStarship-Enterprise.

In agriculture, I quite often speak in humble rural settings where our networks reach down many of William Least Heat Moone's Blue Highways. From schoolrooms to barns, to tents at County Fairs to a place like the "Salty Dog Saloon", connectiveness, communication, and service is always a continuing challenge.

But, to be here today is unique - a truely special and important happening with a definite look towards the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a distinct honor to talk with you this morning about how we might approach the challenge of preserving our archival and library records with major emphasis upon the responsibilities of the Federal government. In developing this presentation, I have had the benefit of receiving the advice and council of a very dedicated Preservation Issues Group For their support, I am deeply grateful.

So let us begin the preservation journey with T. S. Eliot who once reminded us that, "Mankind cannot bear much reality", and yet we, in fact, will face up to today's reality - problems, challenges and opportunity associated with preservation efforts in our Federal Archives and Libraries.

Our nation's archival and library records are at risk and, in many instances, have already been lost forever. During the 1980's, the steady erosion of important collections has accelerated. Ironically, our endangered recorded memory is steeped for the most part in man-made acidic seeds of self-destruction. Library shelves of books and journals have become deterioration areas where highly acidic wood-pulp paper yellows, flakes, and eventually crumbles into dust. The 1990's is shaping up as a decade of truly extraordinary preservation problems and challenges requiring major responses at the National, state, and local levels.

This picture of preservation despair is not new, only larger in magnitude. By 1979, the Library of Congress, in an alarming self evaluation, estimated that 6 million of its own publications were in need of immediate preservation measures. As late as 1986, the Library of Congress estimated that 70,000 volumes in its collection, unfortunately, were making the adverse transition from the "endangered" to the "brittle" category each year. A study at Yale University reported that more than 37% of their books were embrittled, or, in many instances, one more use would be their last. About 27% of the collection at the National Agricultural Library, or about 500,000 volumes, is in a brittle or near brittle state. About 85% of the collection of the National Library of Medicine is on acid paper. In a sample survey at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, nearly 30% or about 300,000 volumes were found to be brittle. This alarming preservation crisis continues to be replicated in various degrees at most archives and libraries throughout the United States, and even includes an explosive challenge in the expanding area of non-traditional, technology-dependent recorded information.

Important records of our cultural heritage, held by the Federal Government, are in a tragic state of affairs. Yet, these records or holdings, we must remember, are the property of the American people. From the world renowned holdings of the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, and other Federal Repositories, to non-federal libraries throughout the United States, these records, despite current expertise, knowledge, and progress, are being lost at an alarming rate. We really need a comprehensive preservation survey of the 2,500 Federal Libraries. The results of the recent Preservation Issues Group survey clearly portrays the many small federal libraries as having very limited to zero resources for preserving their collections. And, yet, these Federal Archives and Libraries play such a vital role in providing documents, as well as answers, to many questions posed by society. For instance, a plant breeder used early American seed trade catalogs to identify a specific diseaseresistant plant variety for re-introduction into the current gene pool. In another case, a young lawyer used pre-1900 maps and land office records to resolve an important land claim dispute. In yet another instance, a scientist/environmentalist utilized retrospective time-series reforestation photographs as critical visual data in an acid rain study. Consider, also, the surgeon who needed to review the latest literature relating to a pressing medical procedure. These examples reflect the enormous number of vital inquiries received by these Federal Libraries and Archives which have continued to serve this Nation and the world well. We must realize that the preservation problems now confronting us as a nation have reached crisis proportions. It is a National problem and affects both Federal and non-federal repositories of our cultural heritage.

The question for the 1990's is, "When is enough enough?" When will the Nation's archival and library community develop a real sense of tangible preservation stewardship! Unfortunately, some past preservation studies, plans, and journalistic outcries have become for a variety of reasons, management ends in themselves with little or no discernible impact in the area of implementation. Just to say that a report or study has been conducted is not enough! In spite of substantial progress in the manufacture of alkaline paper, non-permanent paper is still the major medium polluting our Nation's libraries. Can Federal agencies with archival and library responsibilities do more in the 1990's in the area of preservation with existing budgets? With the exception of LC, NARA, SI and NLM, no Federal libraries or archives receive any major line item budget allocation for a preservation program. Senator Clayborn Pell's Bill, S. J. R. 57, requiring the use of acid free paper for permanent governmental records, is now Public Law and is a start. The action advocated in this bill should be emulated by all 50 states. Is it not time for preservation within the Federal Archival/Library system and throughout most other libraries in the United States to be treated as a basic budgetary necessity, rather than as an afterthought?

II. A NATIONAL PRESERVATION STRATEGY FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Since the 1960's, most library staff at the National, state and local levels have been increasingly aware of the serious need for training and education in library preservation. Unfortunately, as we prepare for the 1990's, it is shocking to imagine that Columbia's School of Library Services which, in 1982, offered the first university degree program in the country to train library conservators and preservation administrators, is closing it's doors. Unless the preservation program at Columbia can be saved, Columbia University's economic move may have serious long-term implications for efforts to build a nationwide preservation program.

However, we must not let the current problem deter us from our ultimate goal - the development of a nationwide preservation education awareness strategy for administrators (Federal agency heads, administrators of library and archival repositories, rather than preservation administrators) to preserve our cultural heritage. Preservation education is one of the most critical milestones on the road to collection preservation. We must now all join forces to clearly articulate and develop this strategy. Administrators must realize that they hold not only the fate of their collections in their hands, but, also, the fate of a whole segment of our cultural heritage. Therefore, administrators must begin to recognize the following goals and objectives:

1. Define Preservation Priorities.
2. Fund Preservation activities and treatment.
3. Establish a re-education and a continuous education program for all members of the staff.
4. Control the Archive and Library Environments.
5. Establish an organization structure that will place preservation functions on a par with other major activities.
6. Provide staff to accomplish the priorities and functions that have been identified.

The Nation's archival and library administrators must be more informed on preservation matters in the 1990's, and do a better job of defending critical preservation needs. There must be continuous education that includes a seminar/workshop training program on the latest thinking, outlook, practices, R & D research, and funding strategies, as part of a new National preservation education initiative. This program should be focused at the administrative level where budgetary decisions are made. A truly effective preservation education program for administrators in the 1990's should be a mandatory part of their education curriculum and place emphasis on information values, preservation priorities management, outreach and funding strategies, and on-sight observations, rather than just take the "sit, look, and listen" approach. The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) which is located at the Library of Congress, and which has already successfully provided a one day preservation seminar, is the logical existing organization to coordinate preservation education within the Federal government. FLICC should be strengthened in such a way as to also enable it to effectively serve as a management support facilitator for all federal libraries in such areas as preservation and binding contracts, and fund raising on behalf of federal libraries. The National Endowment for the Humanities and other appropriate organizations should also be encouraged to support FLICC's expanded preservation related responsibilities.

ISSUE: **How does one insure that part of a Federal library or archives budget is expended on collection preservation?**

III. PROTECTING COLLECTIONS IN ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Controlling the archival and library environment in the 1990's must be a major response which administrators initiate as a budgetary priority. A stable environment, inclusive of recommended temperature, humidity, and lighting, is one of the most crucial factors within archives or libraries throughout the United States. Administrators should also enforce stack and filter maintenance, and keep window blinds closed, as well as prohibiting smoking, food, and drink from their storage areas. These basic preventive preservation measures should be complemented by an up-to-date disaster plan. Administrators and staff must be able to react quickly when a disaster occurs in order to avoid and/or reduce loss to all or a part of their collection, as well as staff. Preservation education, staff commitment, and administrative leadership will be critical to how well archives and libraries monitor and enhance their storage environments. Cooperation with state and local preservation programs to share expertise and for training purposes is another critical factor.

ISSUE: **How do we achieve recommended environmental standards in all Federal archives and libraries?**

IV. WHAT ABOUT THE IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

The high acid content of major portions of archival and library materials, whether it is stored under either most appropriate or poor environmental conditions, will continue to cause collections to deteriorate. The shelf-life of archival and library materials under good stable environmental conditions can be extended for several hundred years, if the acidic process can be stopped by deacidification. By 1991, several inexpensive mass deacidification processes will reportedly be available. Mass deacidification, coupled with preventive conservation measures, such as appropriate temperature and humidity controls, will buy time for the most deteriorating material, if its condition is not brittle or near brittle.

The Library of Congress is at the forefront of mass deacidification research and development. Several private sector vendors have also developed deacidification processes. In addition, the infusion of substantial private sector capital into the development of mass deacidification enterprises around the country is critically important in the 1990's. Seed money, healthy competition, and major archival and library markets for inexpensive mass deacidification should translate into a growing major response to our Nation's preservation problems. However, to be successful the deacidification process must be reasonably priced and include a process to strengthen the paper. Brittle paper which has been deacidified without being strengthened will be acid free, but, it is still brittle.

For brittle and near brittle materials, the only option is to transfer their contents to another format. Currently, microforms, photocopy, and optical disc are the major media employed. Microforms are the choice of most institutions for a number of reasons. It is a certifiable archival medium; it employs a basic technology not likely to undergo significant changes in the future, and it is humanly readable. Also, a master negative is available to produce user copies for other libraries, thereby reducing the need to preserve many copies of the same document held by a number of institutions. Microforms, despite the advantages, suffer much from labor intensive production, a lack of user acceptance, patron misuse, and the difficulty of providing adequate maintenance over microform collections, as well as the inherent difficulty of accessing information on microform.

Photocopying brittle material onto acid-free paper is growing in usage especially by those who question whether film is an adequate replacement for the original hard copy of a text. Photocopying for preservation purposes on acid-free paper provides some advantages in that less training is required for those involved in the process, and the materials can be read without the aid of a mechanical device. However, it is labor intensive and does not offer the advantage microforms do. In addition, much of the material in need of preservation is not in suitable condition for copying.

Optical disc also poses a number of advantages. It is the most compact medium, and one can manipulate information in a much more sophisticated manner, thus providing faster and easier access to specific information. Within the United States, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe, there exist museums, archives, and libraries hoping to increasingly utilize laser disc technology. In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the three National libraries - the Library of Congress (LC), the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and the National Agricultural Library (NAL), as well as the Smithsonian Institution (SI), and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), have been extensively involved in research and development in the area of optical laser discs.

The image management revolution during the 1990's will significantly change the way archivists, curators, librarians, and others will store, preserve, retrieve, display, and access non-print images of photos, slides, art, video tapes, motion picture film, and text. This new approach to information management will have a positive effect on library shelf space, and on binding and preservation requirements in all libraries. In the 1990's, the new technology and resulting information products will be more available at an affordable price at the National, state, and local levels. Through the expanded application of cooperative cost-sharing for the operation of selected authoring stations, information leaders hope to more effectively manage and preserve unbelievable quantities and varieties of information for the benefit of society. Some of this truly exciting and increasingly successful technology is on display in the lobby.

ISSUE: **How should mass deacidification and other new technologies for preserving information be obtained by Federal archives and libraries?**

Updated version presented at NLM.

V. TECHNOLOGY-DEPENDENT INFORMATION

Our Nation's libraries, archives, and research institutions today face an explosive challenge in the form of non-traditional, technologically dependent record formats. Paper and microfilm have been the traditional mainstays of recorded information. The 1980's witnessed the beginning stages of a dramatic revolution in information recording means and media. The 1990's will be a decade in which this revolution becomes pervasive.

Information will be recorded, stored, and accessed in a host of new forms--and all of it will be dependent upon still evolving technologies. Already we know that these technologies are distinguished by two basic elements: they are capable of recording, storing, and accessing massive quantities of information and they require electronic and optical-mechanical devices to store and subsequently display information in a manner that human beings can understand. The bottom line--technologically dependent information, be it verbal or graphic, will reside in an environment that is not human readable.

To the Federal agency heads and administrators of library and archival repositories, the challenge of this revolutionary information environment is to avoid intimidation, grasp the reigns and not turn away, leaving decision-making on technologically dependent information to someone else. The formidable nature of this challenge carries with it a formidable opportunity. If today's top agency administrators are involved actively with those who are shaping the information environment of the 1990's, they will have the unique opportunity to influence and mold this environment. This opportunity to affect the physical nature and thus the life span of recorded information at the time it is initially recorded is without precedent. It is critically important that we encourage cooperation within the public and private sectors in developing plans and standards to ensure the longevity of electronically produced information. This opportunity must not exceed our grasp.

Updated version presented at NLM.

ISSUE: **How should Federal Libraries and Archives seek to influence those involved in the development of non-traditional devices and systems in affecting the recording and storage of information?**

VI. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The 21st century is about 3,100 days away and counting down rapidly. The effective actions of administrators, preventive conservation, and new technologies may reduce the Nation's records at risk. Yet, as we move through the 1990's, we who oversee miles and feet of boxes, volumes, and files, fear for the fate of our Nation's recorded memory, for it is seriously threatened by aging, deterioration, and lack of adequate financial support. The concern for preservation needs of library and archival collections has been primarily the daily responsibility of librarians, archivists, conservators, and curators who, through their professional associations, communicate with elected government representatives at the local, state, National, and international levels. We need to do much more in this area, for with each passing day, the challenge of guaranteeing the survival of these records becomes more crucial.

We cannot afford to wait! Agency administrators and library directors must be prepared to take a more informed and pro-active role in articulating their respective library and archival preservation needs and in collectively developing a national preservation program which includes funding for Federal collections. The publishers, users, and organizations who benefit from information stored in archives and libraries must develop a more responsible

Updated version presented at NLM.

sense of financial stewardship towards preserving knowledge for future generations. The existing concern for preservation must be expanded to include the active support and involvement of educators, editors, researchers, their respective professional associations, and the top executives from corporate America! John Ruskin (1819-1900), English essayist, critic and reformer, once said, "What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do." Improved preservation in the 1990's is what we must do to invest in the knowledge base of tomorrow.

Like Washington and Jefferson, we must cherish and speak on behalf of archives and libraries. We must successfully defend their missions and preserve their unique and valuable holdings for future generations.

Just think about the dignity and importance which has been shown over the years to the protection and preservation of the Constitution of the United States. Remember with me the year 1952 when the Constitution was carefully transferred to the National Archives complete with Military honor guard. The feeling and sense of purpose and respect of that day is what we need for the 1990's. Just think about the important library materials which can be preserved in the 1990's through real cooperation, real sharing and real commitment. Just think of how what we preserve today will benefit future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the decisions and extent of commitment are ours. It has been an honor to talk to you this morning. Thank you for listening and the best to you in your serious deliberations.

Updated version presented at NLM.

A SELECTED RESOURCE LIST FOR PRESERVATION

Compiled by Robert E. Schnare, Director,
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THE ISSUE OF NETWORKING FEDERAL INFORMATION

BY

SARAH A. MIKEL

Sarah Mikel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Libraries, prepared the following paper for the Federal Pre-White House Conference on November 26-27, 1990. The opinions expressed herein are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Libraries.

THE ISSUE OF NETWORKING FEDERAL INFORMATION

Sarah A. Mikel

ISSUE STATEMENT:

To enable greater sharing of resources and exponentially improve access to those resources, the federal library and information center community needs to create and participate in an effective mechanism that will encourage and achieve networking. To achieve the major benefits from networking--shared resources and access--federal libraries and information centers goals are to:

- share information with other federal libraries and information centers,
- share information with other federal libraries within the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) community,
- meet the information needs of their own agencies.

To achieve these goals the following issues must be addressed:

1. Establish the place of federal libraries in the emerging National Research and Education Network (NREN).

2. Recognize the increasing role of the federal library and information center community as a provider of all types of information and participant in the development of national standards for electronic transfer of bibliographic data.

3. Develop a mobilization plan for a coordinated and integrated database and access protocol for the federal resources, utilizing the entity of FEDLINK.

4. Develop mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing within the federal library community to minimize duplication of effort.

5. Ensure the role of the federal library community in the formulation of national information policies.

DEFINITION OF NETWORKING:

The following widely accepted description of networking was formulated by the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee (NAC) during several program sessions in 1986 and 87. The "Library Networking: Statement of a Common Vision" has been endorsed by many library networking organizations and is widely accepted by the library and information centers community as a guiding principle. Although the following statement does not address the federal sector specifically, it applies to the discussion of the networking issues in this paper.

> "Our common vision of networking is an environment in which libraries can provide each individual in the United States with equal opportunity of access to resources that will satisfy their and society's information needs and interests. All users should have access on a timely basis to the information they require without being faced with costs beyond their own or society's means.
>
> To realize this vision, there must be technical and intellectual sharing of resources between the public and private sectors; local, state, and federal governments must fulfill their responsibilities to individuals and society; and the diverse missions of several types of libraries must be accommodated. As this vision becomes a reality, there will emerge a diverse but coordinated structure of networks rather than a monolithic one. Active research, rapidly developing technology, collaborative leadership, common standards, and shared communications will provide means by which the system will be further shaped as an interlocking series of local, state, regional, national and international relationships that are capable of serving the nation's information needs." [2]

NETWORKING ISSUES

ISSUE #1: To establish the place of federal libraries in the emerging National Research and Education Network (NREN)

NREN is a joint effort by approximately 80 institutions to build an electronic superhighway to link the nation intellectually as it was linked geographically by railroads during the nineteenth century. NREN can link users to super computers, libraries, national databases, academic and industrial researchers into an information infrastructure. The network will have the capability of sending three billion bits of data every second. This is equivalent to transmitting 100,000 typed pages every second.[3] In an information network this powerful there should be a place for the federal libraries. Mechanisms to allow access to NREN from federal library network nodes is essential. A corollary to this is to extend NREN to each depository library of U.S. government documents and publications. The presence of federal libraries on NREN will increase access throughout the United States to federal information resources. This will enable the federal library community to better serve its federal users by increasing their access to information sources in academic/research, business, and industry.

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[2] "Network Advisory Committee Agrees on a Common Vision of Networking" Library of Congress Information Bulletin, Vol. 46, No. 3, (January 19, 1987, pp. 34,36)

[3] "NREN, the National Research and Education Network." Washington: Coalition for NREN, c1989.

THE ISSUE IS: A LINK BETWEEN THE FEDERAL LIBRARIES NETWORKS AND NREN IS NEEDED - HOW CAN THIS BE DONE?

ISSUE #2: To recognize the increasing role of the federal library and information center as a provider of all types of information and provide leadership for developing and implementing national standards for electronic transfer of bibliographic and non-bibliographic data.

The changing role of the federal librarian as the provider of " all types" of information in " all types" of libraries is an underlying feature of the networking issue. Allan Bromley in his address at the FLICC Forum on Federal Information Policies in March 1990, said: "I am reminded of the definition of a library that was popular with Yale undergraduates some years ago: that a library is a book, followed by a book, followed by a book. These days, however, in view of growing importance of digital information, one might need to modify that definition somewhat: a library is a byte, followed by a byte, followed by a byte."[4]

Federal libraries have long used traditional bibliographic data in machine readable form and are now also meeting the challenge of working with non bibliographic data in machine readable form. Examples include optical disc technology, graphics, numeric data and other media that are required to provide information to the federal organizations that they serve. In accepting this challenge federal librarians have developed an appreciation for standards to assist them in information delivery. The use of existing standards, e.g., Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), Office Document Architecture (ODA), Office Document Interchange Format (ODIF), Open Systems Interchange (OSI), MARC, and the development of new standards has become a priority within the federal library community. To quote Dr. Bromley again, "In the area of database standards, it is important to note that there are over 1,700 separate entities around the world that maintain at least one, and often many, databases. But because of the lack of any agreed-upon standards, these data bases span a wide variety of systems, services, command languages, protocols, and terminologies. In effect, we are building an electronic Tower of Babel..."[5]

THE ISSUE IS: HOW CAN THE FEDERAL LIBRARY COMMUNITY CONTINUE TO EXERT LEADERSHIP AND INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STANDARDS ?

ISSUE # 3: Develop a mobilization plan for a coordinated and integrated database and access protocol for the federal resources, utilizing the entity of FEDLINK.

The federal library community has a natural and existing infrastructure in FEDLINK which could act as the coordinating agent in establishing databases and communications with NREN. FEDLINK could also act as the vehicle for any software/hardware procurement that might be necessary to establish this access for both the federal community and the public, including depository libraries.

THE ISSUE IS: HOW CAN THE FEDERAL LIBRARY RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE

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[4] D. Allan Bromley, "Managing Scientific and Technical Information in the 1990's," an address to the Forum on Federal Information Policies of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Library of Congress, March 21, 1990.

[5] *Ibid.*

DATABASE OF HOLDINGS AS WELL AS SPECIALIZED DATABASES OF INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES, BE MADE AVAILABLE IN A NETWORK MODE?

ISSUE #4: Develop mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing within the federal library community to make user service better, more efficient and cost-effective.

The federal library community relies heavily on resource sharing and both formal and informal networking to accomplish their job. Examples abound of federal libraries relying on each other to answer reference questions, to participate in cooperative cataloging on OCLC, and to use the cost effective FEDLINK contracts for essential library services. These are part of the fabric of federal library life. Federal librarians know that to network is to survive and provide an acceptable level of service, particularly in times of constrained resources.

Priorities need to be set because of keen competition for resources, funding sources identified, and costs carefully calculated. Networking makes possible an efficient use of resources. In calculating costs, many factors contribute to the overall cost of networking, including staffing, training, software, hardware, telecommunications, administration, fees for online services, photocopying, telefacsimile, and interlibrary loan charges. There are many types of networks ranging from informal, where costs are absorbed and bartered colleague to colleague, to formal networks like OCLC, FEDLINK, The Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), where costs are carefully calculated and assessed. There are also many types of network architecture and governance which affect funding. Federal libraries and information centers have been dealing with these complex issues as part of their day-to-day operations and can contribute a great deal of expertise in formulating costs and assisting in identifying resources that should be utilized in networking.

THE ISSUES ARE: (1) HOW DO WE ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS SUFFICIENT TO DELIVER INFORMATION SERVICES TO FEDERAL LIBRARY USERS AND (2) WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES CAN WE MAKE TO IMPROVE USER SERVICE AND TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE?

ISSUE #5: Ensure the role of the federal library community in the formulation of national information policies.

Our government and society is inundated with computers, telecommunications, optical disc technology and audio-visual devices. This has given rise to a proliferation of legislation on information policy. Between the 95th and 100th Congress three hundred and seventeen public laws have been enacted relating to information policy. During the current Congress more than one hundred such bills have been introduced to date.[6] Federal librarians are knowledgeable about many of the issues in this legislation, including paperwork reduction, literacy, computer technology, scientific-technical information and technology transfer. In this context, it is also important to note that the federal library community can assist the entire library community from its special vantage point and serve as an early alert.

THE ISSUE IS: HOW CAN THE FEDERAL LIBRARY COMMUNITY CREATE A MECHANISM TO SHARE ITS EXPERTISE AS NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY IS BEING FORMULATED AND AS LEGISLATION IS BEING DEVELOPED?

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[6] Robert Lee Chartrand. "Legislation of the 101st Congress related to Information Policy and Technology Issues." Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. August 1, 1989.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE OF NETWORKING

The issue of networking federal information is one that requires influence at the national level, the development of common standards, a strong commitment to networking within the federal library community, a strong commitment to resource sharing on all levels, and sufficient funds to implement a network of federal information available to all federal library and information centers.

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General Session: Networking

Neal Kaske, Ph.D.

1. Establish the place of federal libraries in the emerging National Research and Education Network (NREN)

A link between the federal libraries network and NREN is needed -- how can this be done?

2. Recognize the increasing role of the federal library and information community as a participant in the development of national standards for electronic transfer of bibliographic data.

How can the federal library community continue to exert leadership and increase its effectiveness in the implementation of existing standards and the development of new standards?

3. Develop a coordinated and integrated database and access protocol for the federal resources, utilizing the entity of FEDLINK.

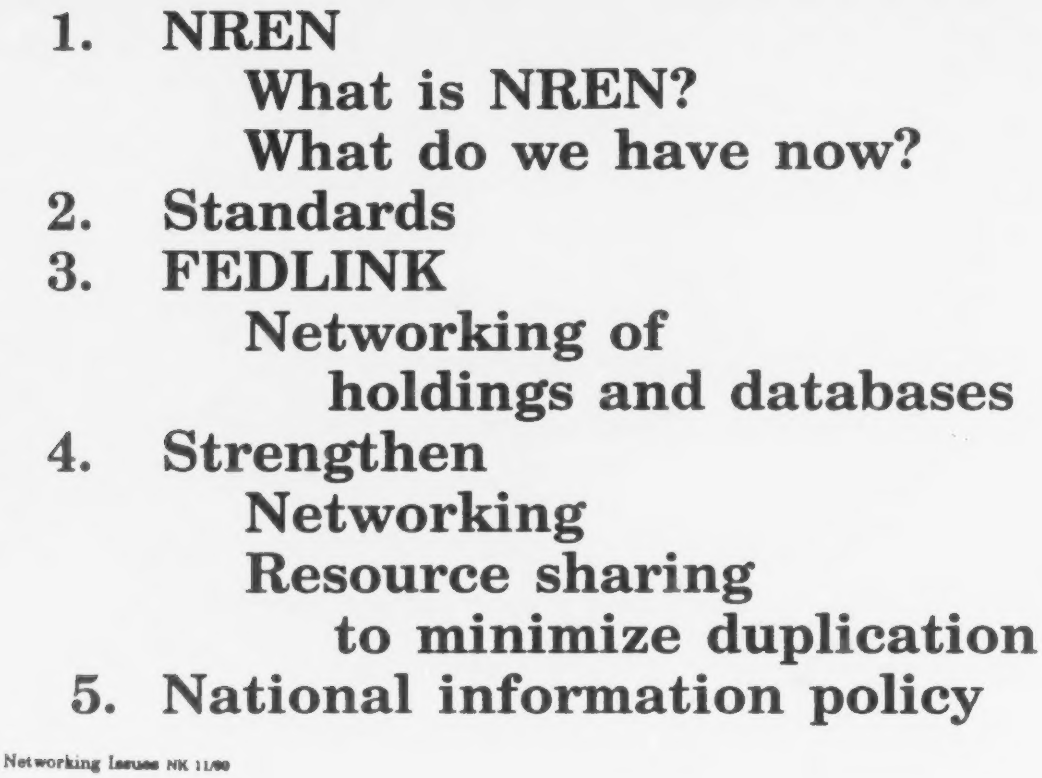
How can the federal library resources, including the database of holdings as well as specialized databases of individual agencies, be made available in a network mode?

4. Develop mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing within the federal library community to minimize duplication of effort.

How do we ensure that funding is sufficient to deliver information services to federal library users and what specific changes can we make to improve user service and to become more efficient and cost-effective?

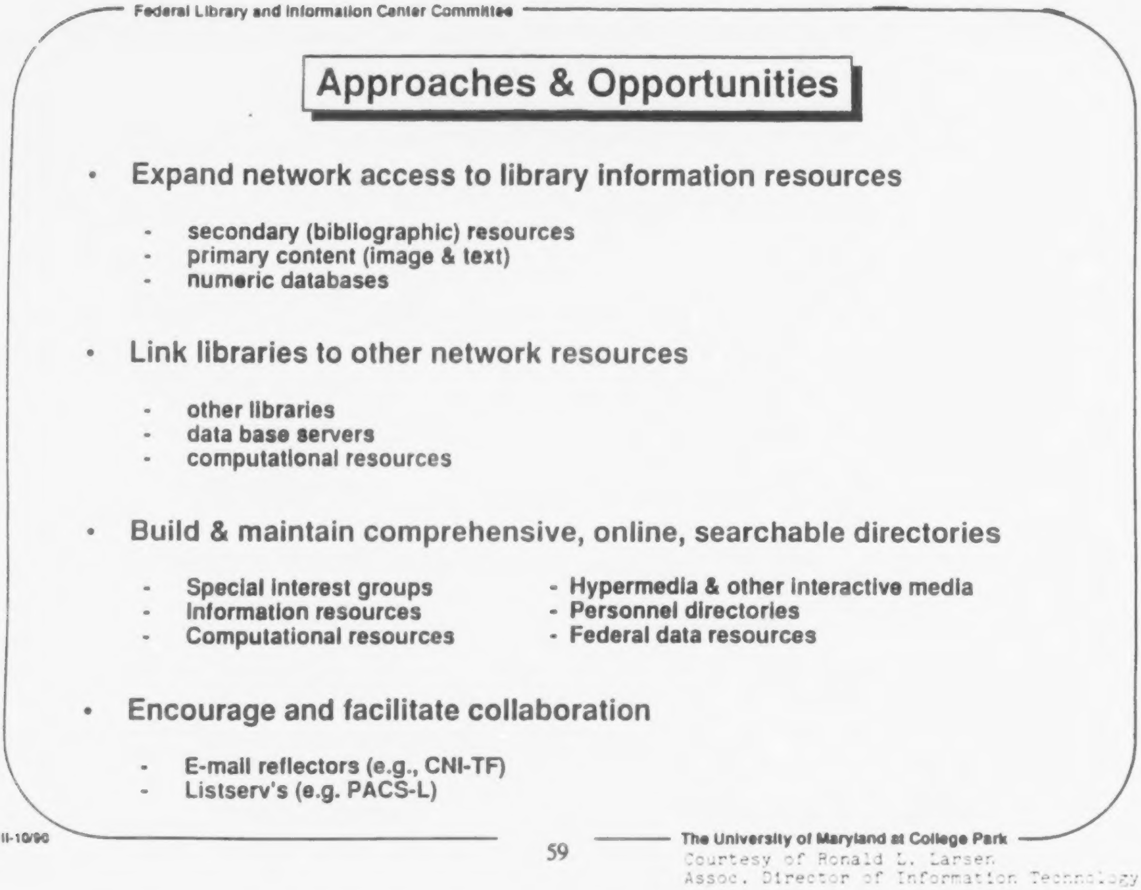
5. Ensure the role of the federal library community in formation of national information policies.

How can the federal library community create a mechanism to share its expertise as national information policy is being formulated and as legislation is being developed?



1. NREN
   - What is NREN?
   - What do we have now?
2. Standards
3. FEDLINK
   - Networking of
     holdings and databases
4. Strengthen
   - Networking
   - Resource sharing
     to minimize duplication
5. National information policy

Networking Issues NK 11/90



Federal Library and Information Center Committee

Approaches & Opportunities

- Expand network access to library information resources
  - secondary (bibliographic) resources
  - primary content (image & text)
  - numeric databases
- Link libraries to other network resources
  - other libraries
  - data base servers
  - computational resources
- Build & maintain comprehensive, online, searchable directories
  - Special interest groups
  - Information resources
  - Computational resources
  - Hypermedia & other interactive media
  - Personnel directories
  - Federal data resources
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration
  - E-mail reflectors (e.g., CNI-TF)
  - Listserv's (e.g. PACS-L)

rll-10/90

The University of Maryland at College Park

Courtesy of Ronald L. Larsen
Assoc. Director of Information Technology

Network Resource Challenges

Legal
- Licensing Provisions for Network Resources
- Intellectual Property Rights & Fair Use
- Privacy & Security Considerations

Financial
- Accounting and Charging for Use of Licensed Products
- Cost Recovery for Network Services
- Economic Models

Technical
- Appropriate Standards for Network-accessible Information
- Responsibility for Network Management & Operations

Operational
- Service to a Growing Community of Non-expert Users
- Directories for Locating Network Resources
- Avoiding information pollution

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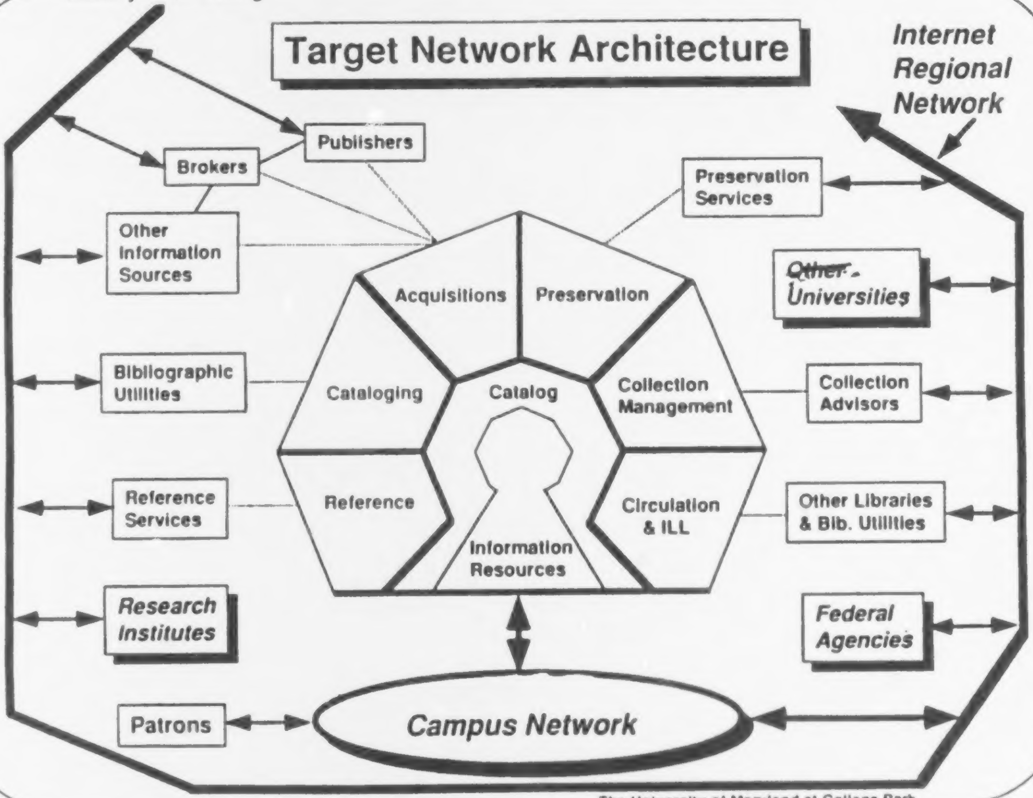
Assoc. Director of Information Technology

Library Networking

Target Network Architecture



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Assoc. Director of Information Technology

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) Working groups:

- non-commercial publishing
- commercial publishing
- architectures and standards
- legislation, codes, policies, and practices
- directories and resource information services
- teaching and learning
- management and professional and user education

The Virtual Library

An amateur historian is completing a study on the origins of networked civilizations. She is working diligently in her favorite location -- in a small rowboat floating in a farmpond. Being something of a traditionalist, she has so far resisted the temptation to get the brain stem implants so many of her friends are raving about. She's still sticking with the fast-obsoleting virtual workstation hardware.

She wears a translucent pair of wrap-around goggles. These display a pair of binocular images to her, each with pixel and color resolution matching her visual acuity. The goggles provide a field of view as wide as her visual arc. Head-motion sensors in the goggles send information to her pocket-sized 100 GIPS computer. The computer uses this information to pan the displays to cancel her head motion, so she has the convincing impression of being inside a virtual environment. She can interact with objects in the environment by moving her hands in a natural way. She is wearing a thin pair of gloves that report her hand motion to the computer. The computer projects an image of her hands in the virtual environment and adjusts virtual objects as she manipulates them. The goggles also track her eye motion, so she can point to objects simply by looking at them and speaking commands (the computer recognizes her speech).

To perform her study, she whispers to her computer, "historical archives." The computer creates an animated representation of sailing over a city and landing before a large building. She floats inside and settles at a wide mahogany table. She starts naming off topics of interest, the corresponding virtual books float out of their virtual shelves, glide to her, open themselves to the pages of interest, and float before her. With a practiced flurry of glances and gestures, she arranges them to her liking, scans a few documents, and begins to dictate her thoughts.

As her essay ranges to other topics, her computer suggests additional reference material. At one point she is reviewing an archived discussion from the historically significant Usenet. She stumbles upon a thread relating to the early efforts to place printed materials on optical disks. She reads a few quotes and marvels at how quaint they sound in retrospect. Imagine, real paper books!

She recalls seeing a few at a museum, carefully stored under nitrogen beneath thick glass. How her predecessors must have struggled with them...they looked so heavy, so bulky, so clumsy, and above all, so inflexible! Having data in a static form, how could one search it, extract portions for comment, analysis, or elaboration? What if a book contained errors? How was one to locate all the copies and notify their owners? How could one simultaneously view a hundred of them? How could one possibly have enough on hand to do any serious work? How to write anything at all, never having assurance that one's readers would have immediate access to all the necessary background material? She speculates that the hapless writers of the past either had to speak hopelessly above most reader's heads or else painstakingly repeat information already available elsewhere. No wonder progress had been so slow! With hordes of people duplicating each other's efforts, that progress had occurred at all was amazing. And how was anyone to read comfortably? Fumbling with turning pages, struggling to to get the correct lighting...could those people have read anything while lying in bed? She struggles with the idea momentarily, then gives up.

Wearying with her thoughts and labors, she tells her computer to save her work environment. She will return to it later. She pulls off her goggles and gloves, and slides them into a case on her belt. She seizes the oars, and slowly makes for shore.

Courtesy ~~of~~
Dan Mocsny
University of Cinn. College of Engineering

(2) "Council" means the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Sec. 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

(a) Except to the extent the appropriate Federal agency or department head determines, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to--

(1) programs or activities regarding computer systems that process classified information; or

(2) computer systems the function, operation, or use of which are those delineated in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2315(a) of title 10. United States Code.

(b) Where appropriate, and in accordance with Federal contracting law, Federal agencies and departments may procure prototype or early production models of new high-performance computer systems and subsystems to stimulate hardware and software development.

(c) Nothing in this Act or in any amendment made by this Act limits the authority or ability of any Federal agency or department to undertake activities, including research, development, or demonstration, in high-performance computing or computer network applications or technologies.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to convey to any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity immunity from civil or criminal liability under any antitrust law or to create defenses to actions under any antitrust law. As used in this section, "antitrust laws" means those Acts set forth in section 1 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12), as amended.

TITLE I - THE HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACT OF 1990

SEC 101. NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM

The National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end of the following new title:

TITLE VII--NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM

"NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM PLAN"

"Sec. 701. (A)(1) The President, through the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (hereafter in this title referred to as the 'Council') shall, in accordance with the provisions of this title--

"(A) develop a National High-Performance computing Plan (hereafter in this title referred to as the 'Plan'); and

"(B) provide for interagency coordination of the Federal high-performance computing program established by this title.

The Plan shall contain recommendations for a five-year national effort and shall be submitted to the Congress within one year after the date of enactment of this title. The Plan shall be resubmitted upon revision at least once every two years thereafter.

"(2) The Plan shall--

"(A) establish the goals and priorities for a Federal high-performance computing program for the fiscal year in which the Plan (or revised Plan) is submitted and the succeeding four fiscal years;

"(B) set forth the recommended role of each Federal agency and department in implementing the Plan; and

"(C) describe the levels of Federal funding for each agency and department and specific activities, including education, research activities, hardware and software development, and acquisition and operating expenses for computers and computers networks, required to achieve the goals and priorities established under subparagraph (A).

"(3) The Plan shall address, where appropriate the relevant programs and activities of the following Federal agencies and departments:

"(A) the National Science Foundation;

"(B) the Department of Commerce, particularly the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

"(C) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

"(D) the Department of Defense, particularly the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency;

"(E) the Department of Energy;

"(F) the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine;

"(G) the Department of Education

"(H) the Department of Agriculture, particularly the National Agricultural Library, and

"(I) such other agencies and departments as the President or the Chairman of the Council considers appropriate.

"(4) In addition, the Plan shall take into consideration the present and planned activities of the Library of Congress, as deemed appropriate by the Librarian of Congress.

"(5) The Plan shall identify how agencies and departments can collaborate to--

"(A) ensure interoperability among computer networks run by the agencies and departments;

"(B) increase software productivity, capability, portability, and reliability;

"(C) encourage, where appropriate, agency cooperation with industry in development and exchange of software;

"(D) distribute software among the agencies and departments;

"(E) distribute federally-funded software to State and local governments, industry, and universities.

"(F) accelerate the development of high performance computer systems, subsystems, and associated software;

"(G) provide the technical support and research and development of high-performance computer software and hardware needed to address Grand Challenges in astrophysics, geophysics, engineering, materials, biochemistry, plasma physics, weather and climate forecasting, and other fields; and

"(H) identify agency rules, regulations, policies, and practices which can be changed to significantly improve utilization of Federal high-performance computing and network facilities, and make recommendations to such agencies for appropriate changes.

"(6) The Plan shall address the security requirements and policies necessary to protect Federal research computer networks and information resources accessible through Federal research computer networks. Agencies identified in the Plan shall define and implement a security plan consistent with the Plan.

"(b) The Council shall--

"(1) serve as lead entity responsible for development of, and interagency coordination of the program under, the Plan;

"(2) recommend ways to coordinate the high-performance computing research and development activities of federal agencies and departments and report at least annually to the President through the Chairman of the Council, on any recommended changes in agency or departmental roles that are needed to better implement the Plan;

"(3) review, prior to the President's submission to the Congress of the annual budget estimate, each agency and departmental budget estimate in the contest of the Plan and make the results of that review available to the appropriate elements of the Executive Office of the President, particularly the Office of Management and Budget; and

"(4) consult and coordinate with Federal agencies, academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups conducting research on high-performance computing.

"(c) The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a High-performance Computing Advisory Panel consisting of prominent representatives from industry and academic who are specially qualified to provide the Council with advice and information on high-performance computing. The Panel shall provide the Council with an independent assessment of--

"(1) progress made in implementing the Plan;

"(2) the need to revise the Plan;

"(3) the balance between the components of the Plan;

"(4) whether the research and development funded under the Plan is helping to maintain United States leadership in computing technology; and

"(5) other issues identified by the Director.

"(d)(1) Each appropriate Federal agency and department involved in high-performance computing shall, as part of its annual request for appropriations to the Office of Management and Budget, submit a report to the Office identifying each element of its high-performance computing activities, which--

"(A) specifies whether each such element (i) contributes primarily to the implementation of the Plan or (ii) contributes primarily to the achievement of other objectives but aids Plan implementation in important ways; and

"(B) states the portion of its request for appropriations that is allocated to each such element.

"(2) The Office of Management and Budget shall review each such report in light of the goals, priorities, and agency and departmental responsibilities set forth in the Plan, and shall include, in the President's annual budget estimate, a statement of the portion of each appropriate agency or department's annual budget estimate that is allocated to each element of such agency or department's high-performance computing activities.

"(e) As used in this section, the term 'Grand Challenge' means a fundamental problem in science and engineering, with broad economic and scientific impact, whose solution will require the application of high-performance computing resources.

"ANNUAL REPORT

"Sec. 702, The Chairman of the Council shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress, not later than March 1 of each year, an annual report on the activities conducted pursuant to this title during the preceding fiscal year, including--

"(1) a summary of the achievements of Federal high-performance computing research and development efforts during that preceding fiscal year;

"(2) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan;

"(3) a copy and summary of the Plan and any changes made in such Plan;

The **Library** at your fingertips

6 How to Access the LUIS Computer Catalog From a Microcomputer or Remote Terminal

f you have a microcomputer or terminal with a modem, you can use Northwestern University Library's LUIS omputer catalog remotely. The LUIS catalog can also be used from any terminal which is wired into the cademic Computing and Network Services (ACNS) terminal network, NUNET (the University computer etwork), or from terminals on the Northwestern campus which are equipped with an NTS Data Interface Unit DIU). This guide provides basic instructions for accessing LUIS for 1) microcomputer users or others "dialing n" through a modem and telephone line; 2) for those who wish to use LUIS from an ACNS (Vogelback) erminal; 3) for users who have access to NUNET or the Internet using the TELNET TCP/IP protocol; and 3) or those with DIU's. Information on hours of LUIS availability and downloading capabilities are provided at the nd of this guide.

USING LUIS FROM YOUR MICROCOMPUTER OR TERMINAL AND MODEM

Any 300, 1200, or 2400 bits per second (b.p.s., or baud) modem can be used with a microcomputer or terminal to access LUIS. If you have a microcomputer, you will also need communications software. Software which provides a common terminal emulation such as VT100, VT52, or IBM3101 will significantly improve the readability of terminal screens. Communication software providing VT100 emulation for both the IBM PC and the Macintosh are available without charge from Northwestern's Academic Computing and Network Services (ACNS).

The following switch settings on your terminal or software settings on your communication program must be set before dialing into LUIS:

EVEN Parity
SEVEN (7) Data Bits Word Length
ONE (1) Stop Bit
FULL Duplex

The speed on your software should also be set to match your modem. With all of these set, dial:

491-3070 (or **1-3070** if you're on campus) for 300-1200 b.p.s.
OR
491-3060 (or **1-3060** on campus) for 2400 b.p.s.

Once connected, press **ENTER** once; you will get the following prompt:

ENTER TERMINAL TYPE:

At this point, you should enter the model number of the terminal you are using, or the name of the terminal emulation you are using. Microcomputer users should type **VT100** if their software has been set for VT100 emulation, or **TTY** if their software allows operation as simply a "dumb" (ASCII) terminal, and press ENTER. Users of terminals may type in their terminal model if it is among the following:
ADM3A, ALA316X, DM1521, IBM3101, IBM316X, IQ120, IQ130, TTY, TVI912, TVI925, VT100, VT52, Z19; if your terminal type is not on this list, use TTY. After pressing **ENTER**, the screen will go blank. Pressing **ENTER** again will give you the LUIS introductory screen.

There is no need to "sign off" from LUIS if you are dialing in; simply hang up your phone.

If you get a busy signal when dialing in at 2400 b.p.s., try the 1200 b.p.s. number; it will be slower, but there are more incoming lines on that number.

Courtesy of
Northwestern University Library

"(2) "Council" means the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

SEC. 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) Except to the extent the appropriate Federal agency or department head determines, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) programs or activities regarding computer systems that process classified information; or

(2) computer systems the function, operation, or use of which are those delineated in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2315(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) Where appropriate, and in accordance with Federal contracting law, Federal agencies and departments may procure prototype or early production models of new high-performance computer systems and subsystems to stimulate hardware and software development.

(c) Nothing in this Act or in any amendment made by this Act limits the authority or ability of any Federal agency or department to undertake activities, including research, development, or demonstration, in high-performance computing or computer network applications or technologies.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to convey to any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity immunity from civil or criminal liability under any antitrust law or to create defenses to actions under any antitrust law. As used in this section, "antitrust laws" means those Acts set forth in section 1 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12), as amended.

TITLE I—THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACT OF 1990

SEC. 101. NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM.

The National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

"TITLE VII—NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM

"NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PLAN

"SEC. 701. (a)(1) The President, through the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (hereafter in this title referred to as the 'Council'), shall, in accordance with the provisions of this title—

"(A) develop a National High-Performance Computing Plan (hereafter in this title referred to as the 'Plan'); and

"(B) provide for interagency coordination of the Federal high-performance computing program established by this title.

The Plan shall contain recommendations for a five-year national effort and shall be submitted to the Congress within one year after the date of enactment of this title. The Plan shall be resubmitted upon revision at least once every two years thereafter.

"(2) The Plan shall—

"(A) establish the goals and priorities for a Federal high-performance computing program for the fiscal year in which the Plan (or revised Plan) is submitted and the succeeding four fiscal years;

"(B) set forth the recommended role of each Federal agency and department in implementing the Plan; and

"(C) describe the levels of Federal funding for each agency and department and specific activities, including education, research activities, hardware and software development, and acquisition and operating expenses for computers and computers networks, required to achieve the goals and priorities established under subparagraph (A).

"(3) The Plan shall address, where appropriate, the relevant programs and activities of the following Federal agencies and departments:

"(A) the National Science Foundation;

"(B) the Department of Commerce, particularly the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

"(C) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

"(D) the Department of Defense, particularly the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency;

"(E) the Department of Energy;

"(F) the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine;

~~"(G) the Department of Education;~~

"(H) the Department of Agriculture particularly ~~the National Agricultural~~ Library; and

"(I) such other agencies and departments as the President or the Chairman of the Council considers appropriate.

"(4) In addition, the Plan shall take into consideration the present and planned activities of the Library of Congress, as deemed appropriate by the Librarian of Congress.

"(5) The Plan shall identify how agencies and departments can collaborate to—

"(A) ensure interoperability among computer networks run by the agencies and departments;

"(B) increase software productivity, capability, portability, and reliability;

"(C) encourage, where appropriate, agency cooperation with industry in development and exchange of software;

"(D) distribute software among the agencies and departments;

"(E) distribute federally-funded software to State and local governments, industry, and universities;

"(F) accelerate the development of high performance computer systems, subsystems, and associated software;

"(G) provide the technical support and research and development of high-performance computer software and hardware needed to address Grand Challenges in astrophysics, geophysics, engineering, materials, biochemistry, plasma physics, weather and climate forecasting, and other fields; and

"(H) identify agency rules, regulations, policies, and practices which can be changed to significantly improve utilization of Federal high-performance computing and network facilities, and make recommendations to such agencies for appropriate changes.

"(6) The Plan shall address the security requirements and policies necessary to protect Federal research computer networks and information resources accessible through Federal research computer networks. Agencies identified in the Plan shall define and implement a security plan consistent with the Plan.

"(b) The Council shall—

"(1) serve as lead entity responsible for development of, and interagency coordination of the program under, the Plan;

"(2) recommend ways to coordinate the high-performance computing research and development activities of federal agencies and departments and report at least annually to the President, through the Chairman of the Council, on any recommended changes in agency or departmental roles that are needed to better implement the Plan;

"(3) review, prior to the President's submission to the Congress of the annual budget estimate, each agency and departmental budget estimate in the context of the Plan and make the results of that review available to the appropriate elements of the Executive Office of the President, particularly the Office of Management and Budget; and

"(4) consult and coordinate with Federal agencies, academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups conducting research on high-performance computing.

"(c) The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a High-performance Computing Advisory Panel consisting of prominent representatives from industry and academia who are specially qualified to provide the Council with advice and information on high performance computing. The Panel shall provide the Council with an independent assessment of—

"(1) progress made in implementing the Plan;

"(2) the need to revise the Plan;

"(3) the balance between the components of the Plan;

"(4) whether the research and development funded under the Plan is helping to maintain United States leadership in computing technology; and

"(5) other issues identified by the Director.

"(d)(1) Each appropriate Federal agency and department involved in high-performance computing shall, as part of its annual request for appropriations to the Office of Management and Budget, submit a report to the Office identifying each element of its high-performance computing activities, which—

"(A) specifies whether each such element (i) contributes primarily to the implementation of the Plan or (ii) contributes primarily to the achievement of other objectives but aids Plan implementation in important ways; and

"(B) states the portion of its request for appropriations that is allocated to each such element.

"(2) The Office of Management and Budget shall review each such report in light of the goals, priorities, and agency and departmental responsibilities set forth in the Plan, and shall include, in the President's annual budget estimate, a statement of the portion of each appropriate agency or department's annual budget estimate that is allocated to each element of such agency or department's high-performance computing activities.

"(e) As used in this section, the term 'Grand Challenge' means a fundamental problem in science and engineering, with broad economic and scientific impact, whose solution will require the application of high-performance computing resources.

"ANNUAL REPORT

"SEC. 702. The Chairman of the Council shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress, not later than March 1 of each year, an annual report on the activities conducted pursuant to this title during the preceding fiscal year, including—

"(1) a summary of the achievements of Federal high-performance computing research and development efforts during that preceding fiscal year;

"(2) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan;

"(3) a copy and summary of the Plan and any changes made in such Plan;

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Access issues relating to networking

"How can Federal libraries and information centers effectively meet their role to serve the government entity for which they were created and also serve the general public?"

Networks and technology can be barriers to access

Task

Role or Status

Communication

Technology

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

NAL DIRECTOR AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HEAD SPEAK AT WHITE HOUSE PRE-CONFERENCE

NAL Director Joseph Howard and Dr. Alan Fusonie, head of NAL's Special Collections, were keynote speakers at two sessions of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services held at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland November 26-27, 1990.

The pre-conference was held to allow delegates to identify and articulate specific issues and concerns to be addressed at this summer's Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The preconference focused on preservation, access, networking and funding.

Speaking on funding, Howard said that the budget climate of today is drastically different from the "times of plenty of the 1960s" when he began working in the federal library system. Today, he said, libraries, like all government services, are facing the budgeteer's axe. Libraries "must work more closely in order to speak with a louder voice" in letting those that control the federal purse-strings know how crucial the services provided by libraries and information centers are to the well-being of the nation.

In an effort to get delegates thinking about the issue of user fees (which many in government hold up as the future for government services, including libraries), Howard posed several questions to those in attendance including the basic one of "should charges be made for services that traditionally the American taxpayer had received for free." While not claiming to have the answer, Howard said that this was an important issue that all government-funded information services would be required to face in the near term and it was a key issue to be addressed at the White House Conference.

Fusonie spoke on the issue of preservation, which because of the embrittled state of much of the nation's archival materials, has the attention of librarians and information specialists throughout government.

Recognizing that libraries and information centers rarely have the resources they need to preserve all of their collections, he said that librarians now must make the tough choices in prioritizing their preservation activities; they are being forced to ask "what is the value of that information" and does it warrant being saved over other embrittled materials. This is a regrettable circumstance, Funsonie said, but the White House Conference is an excellent opportunity to make the magnitude of the preservation problem known to those outside the information service professions.

Fusonie also stressed the importance of preservation education, staff commitment and administrative leadership in preserving collections. And he hammered on the point that preservation must be a budgetary priority in libraries.

Finally, Fusonie gave a brief overview of the improvements that are being made in the science of preservation.

Approximately 100 delegates and 70 alternates and observers attended the pre-conference. Represented among this group were federal advisory committees, boards of regents, government officials, federal librarians and information specialists and private citizens.

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THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO FEDERAL INFORMATION

BY

KURT N. MOLHOLM

Kurt N. Molholm, Defense Technical Information Center, prepared the following paper for the Federal Pre-White House Conference on November 26 - 27, 1990. The opinions expressed herein are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the Defense Technical Information Center.

82

THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO FEDERAL INFORMATION

Kurt N. Molholm

> **"In general, unimpeded dissemination of and access to Federal information is encouraged or frequently required and is vital to performance of agency and programmatic missions established by statute as well as the principles of open government and a democratic society."**
>
> **OTA, *Informing the Nation***

ISSUE STATEMENT

All government organizations -- be they federal, state, local -- create and use information in order to fulfill their roles in serving citizens. Just as informed citizens and commercial businesses rely on access to information to increase their knowledge and improve their performance so do government organizations. Democratic governments moderate this need with the requirement to be open to the people and accountable to the legislature, as well as to protect the privacy of individuals, to provide for the economic and defense security of the state, and to assure fairness and equity. The Federal library or information center's awareness of the community it serves is a critical factor if it is to provide quality service. But what is this community? The National Technical Information Service (NTIS), the Government Printing Office (GPO), and two of the three National Libraries, for example, are chartered to directly serve the general public. Most government libraries and information centers are not. How can Federal libraries and information centers effectively meet their role to serve the government entity for which they were created and also serve the general public? In fulfilling these roles are there barriers in access to information to be overcome while maintaining an efficient and economical system that balances the public right to know and the need for government organizations to produce and use information to accomplish their missions?

DISCUSSION

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) recently approved unanimously a document, "Principles of Public Information." Public information is defined in the Preamble as "information created, compiled and/or maintained by the Federal Government." The Preamble further states that, "We assert that public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law."

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in its "Second Advance Notice of Further Policy Development on Dissemination of Information," June 15, 1989, stated "OMB wishes to make clear that its fundamental philosophy is that government information is a public asset; that is, with the exception of national security matters and other such areas as may be prescribed by law, it is the obligation of the government to make such information readily available to all citizens ...."

The three overall themes of the second White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services (WHCLIS) are library and information services for productivity, for literacy, and for democracy. The questions are: whose productivity, whose literacy, and how is democracy best served by the Federal library and information center communities?

THE ISSUE OF ACCESS

Access is the ability to locate, obtain, and make use of the information one needs - in a timely manner. OMB Circular A-130 points out that access is a passive function for Federal agencies and differs from dissemination. Access is the government's responsibility, "...when the public comes to the government and asks for information the government has and the public is entitled to...". Dissemination, however, is when, "... the government provides the public with information without the public having to come and ask for it." One of the NCLIS "Principles of Public Information" is, "The public has the right of access to public information." The WHCLIS Federal sector has adopted as its theme, "Citizen access to Federal information resources through federal agency information organizations." It is clear that information, created by or for the Federal Government, is a resource to which citizens must be permitted access. It's also clear the National Policy is that, with the exception of national security matters and other such areas as may be prescribed by law, Federal information must be made readily available to all citizens. However, it is also a resource, access to which is required to accomplish the function of individual government units. Although most Federal libraries and information centers are required to provide for public access under such things as the Freedom of Information Act and the Federal Depository Library Program, the cost to do this is not usually provided for in an appropriation. **The issue is how much of an agency's resources should be expended on making information available to all citizens when the primary intent of the information is to serve citizens by accomplishing the governmental functions for which the information organization is funded.**

THE ISSUE OF "WHAT INFORMATION?"

The definition of information is, at best, ambiguous. The purpose of much of the Federal Government information is primarily to accomplish the mission of the organization. It is also a major product - both intermediate and final - product of that function. Moreover, demand for most types of information is normally limited to narrowly defined communities. Information can be in many forms - such as bibliographic, textual, statistical data, factual and numeric data, and images. **The issue is what information, and in what forms and formats, fulfills OMB's policy, "... to make such information readily available to all citizens ...."**

Types (or classes) of Federal Government Information include

Consumer information. Information prepared with the individual citizen or specific group of citizens as the intended audience and may be made available through government (and private) organizations which have been set up to directly serve the general public. Normally requires no further processing to be used by a member of the general public. Included in this type of information are publications addressing health, agricultural, education, and consumer safety issues and services such as government crop and weather bulletins and self-help programs.

Citizen Information. Information which informs citizens about the operations of their government. Information of this type may have been specially prepared to meet the needs of the specific government organization but is available for all citizens (e.g., the Congressional Record, environmental assessment documents) or it may have been prepared specifically to inform citizens (e.g., press releases).

Administrative (or Operating) Information. Information of this type is used to meet the needs of the specific government organization including that information required for informed decision making. It includes, payroll information, automated inventory data, contractual information (including contract negotiation information), statistical data, internal memorandums, and financial records. Information of this type is not normally prepared with release to the general public in mind. This type of information must be considered in context of the situation for which the information is prepared and normally is part of the process of accomplishing an agency's function.

Business Information. Data, documents, or indices or directories to data or documents that either result from research and data gathering conducted by or for the Federal Government or are collected or created by or for Federal agencies as part of the business and economics knowledge base for use in Federal policy making and regulation and for business planning by commercial firms. This type of information includes economic indicators, census data, Security and Exchange Commission filings, and patent information.

Scientific and Technical Information (STI). Federal STI is data, documents, indices or directories to data or documents that either result from research and development conducted by or for the Federal Government or are collected or created by or for Federal agencies as part of the knowledge base for scientific disciplines, technical specialties, and science and technology policy making. STI is a key part of the research and development (R&D) infrastructure. Creation and use of STI are central to innovation at all stages of the research, development, and application continuum. Concomitant with the issue of access to STI are the issues of optimizing its usefulness and ensuring its quality and integrity concurrently with access.

THE ISSUE OF INTEGRITY OF ACCESS AND DELIVERY

NCLIS principle number two states, "The Federal Government should guarantee the integrity and preservation of public information, regardless of its format." But how is this to be done? Domestic copyright protection does not apply. There is opposition to the concept of licensing of information even though the primary intent of licensing may be to help assure information integrity rather than to obtain licensing fees. **The issue is how should the integrity of public information be maintained and ensured during the access and delivery process?**

THE ISSUE OF BARRIERS TO ACCESS

If unimpeded dissemination of and access to Federal information is critical both to agency performance and to maintaining the principles of open government and a democratic society, then impeding barriers must be reduced or eliminated. **The issue**

is how can barriers be eliminated - or at least significantly reduced - in order to meet the demands of a society where open and equitable access to Federal information is a fundamental right? For example, what is the responsibility of Federal information organizations to provide training in the use of libraries and information centers? What is their responsibility for providing translation services, extended hours of operation, or alternative media forms? Will fees for access create a barrier - or, at a minimum, an inequity?

Barriers to access include:

Methods, Means, and Media. To be useful, information must be transferable to the mind. Federal information comes in many forms and various types of media. Additionally, the methods employed to use information most often reflect the needs of the government organization. Textual information is human readable, the words indicate context. Similarly, maps, photographs, and audio recordings may be understandable without further interpretation. Economic, scientific, and technical factual data are critically evaluated. Numeric databases collect these data, perhaps along with computer programs allowing one to search, retrieve, manipulate and plot. While the data may be human readable it normally must be placed into a context. This may also be true of bibliographic information. Thus, applications are developed to permit effective use of information. Applications, for example, to:

Search the literature for information relating to elements, compounds, chemical classes, etc.

Retrieve numeric data for inspection, subsequent calculation, or comparison.

Plot graphs and diagrams.

Perform simulations.

Cost of Access To be useful, information must be affordable. Costs associated with access include not only the cost of the information but the cost of the technology needed to produce, access, use, and disseminate it. These costs must also consider the cost of abstracting, indexing, and other input expense. Cost can be determined in a relatively objective way. However, the impact of cost and any resulting fee structure is much harder to determine because it is based on the ability to pay. Namely, what price builds a barrier that will not permit a Federal organization to fulfill its obligation to make such information readily available to all citizens. Thus the issue of equity must be considered when considering the overall issue of barriers of access.

Language/Informational Literacy. To be useful, information must be understandable. There are barriers in addition to the technical considerations involved with electronically stored and transferred information, such as access language and programming. If an individual cannot read, or if they cannot read the language in which a document is written the information is useless to that individual. If an individual is language literate but is unable to understand and use the information needed to gain access to the desired information, a barrier remains.

Blindness and Physical Disabilities. Printed or graphic information that has no restrictions on access still may not be "...readily available to all citizens...". The blind are unable to read ink-on-paper, electronically displayed, or video tape documents. Hearing impaired citizens may be unable to listen to audio tapes. Physical barriers, such as stairways and narrow passages also may prevent access to many citizens.

Hours of Operation. When access to government information is limited to the normal working hours of the providing organization, a barrier is created for those with similar working hours.

Building Security. Building security requirements for entrance into some agencies, although perhaps necessary for building security, also create a barrier.

Laws, Rules, and Regulations. From the point of view of the Federal Information Manager - the custodian of the information resource - there are barriers that must be observed, such as statutory requirements and administrative regulations. This includes such things as Privacy Act provisions and National Security considerations.

Funding. Without adequate funding, Federal libraries and information centers - even those with a public or quasi-public charter - "pick-and-choose" the services they will provide, eliminating or reducing services for which demand may not be great. Thus, other barriers are created. Even if these organizations are permitted to charge a fee for service (another barrier), the fees are usually turned over to the U.S. Treasury and, therefore, not be used to supplement the funding of the information providing organization.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE OF ACCESS: If "...public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law," then, how can Federal libraries and information centers effectively meet their role to serve the government entity for which they were created and also serve the general public for access to government information?

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b. H.R. 3695, the "Paperwork Reduction and Federal Information Resources Management Act of 1989," 101st Cong., 1st sess., November 17, 1989, ordered to be reported by the House Committee on Government Operations, March 13, 1990.

c. H.R. 3849, the "The Government Printing Office Improvement Act of 1990," 101st Cong., 2nd sess., January, 1990.

d. H.R. 3849, the "American Technology Preeminence Act of 1990," 101st Cong., 2nd sess., introduced and ordered to be reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 21, 1990, and passed by the House, July 11, 1990 (as an amendment in the form of a substitute to S. 1191, the "Technology Administration Act of 1989," June 15, 1989, ordered to be reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, August 1, 1989, passed by the Senate, October 26,1989).

Remarks of Fred B. Wood, Senior Associate*
Office of Technology Assessment
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20510

before the

Federal Pre-White House Conference
on Library and Information Services

November 27, 1990

Lister Hill Auditorium
National Library of Medicine

on

"Public Access to Federal Information: Where the Nation Stands"

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*The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the OTA, Technology Assessment Board, or U.S. Congress.

I. Introduction

- Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your meeting.
- The timing couldn't be better, for several reasons.

-- First, how many of you participated in 4 or more meetings or studies on information policy over the last 2 years? Please raise your hands. Well join the club. The last 2 years established a watershed in Federal information policy, as measured by meetings, hearings, reports and the like that addressed information access and other key issues. Indeed, the record suggests to me that the last two years were by far the busiest information policy years in the history of the nation. Does anyone here disagree?

-- Second, despite this activity, we have not reached policy closure. Yes, we do have unfinished business; and the White House conference is coming along at just the right time--provided that we learn from and build on the last two years so that two years from now, we can celebrate our victory.

-- Third, believe it or not, OTA's report Informing the Nation: Federal Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age has been out for over two years now, and I'm going to start by taking a retrospective look at this report and see how far we have come.

II. A Busy Two Years

- Following publication of Informing the Nation, I spoke at several meetings of libraries and professional associations, including the American Society for Information Science and the American Library Association.
- I typically framed my remarks in terms of key questions for the then newly elected President Bush and 101st Congress. These questions are just as relevant today. Let's see how we and they have fared. And let's consider the implications for what we do here today and next year.

The 4 questions are:

1. Are we as a nation going to reaffirm the importance of Federal information in an electronic age?
2. Are we as a nation going to reaffirm our commitment to public access as the first priority of government information policy?
3. Are we as a nation going to give information dissemination a high priority in Federal agency automation? and
4. Are we as a nation going to permit our governmentwide information dissemination agencies to fully participate in the electronic age?

- In my estimation, the information policy community--and especially the people in this room--has answered these questions with a resounding yes.

- Let's look at what we have accomplished.

- On the plus side, several interagency committees have become more active and effective; two examples are CENDI (composed of representatives from NTIS, Energy, NASA, DTIC, and NLM) and the Interagency Working Group on Data Management for Global Change.

- Also, several congressional committees and subcommittees have become more active, and have held an unprecedented number of hearings on Federal information policy issues. I estimate that more than a dozen hearings were held by the 101st Congress--primarily by the
    - -- Government Information Subcommittees of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the House Government Operations Committee
    - -- Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
    - -- Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
    - -- the Procurement and Printing Subcommittee of the Committee on House Administration
    - -- and the Joint Committee on Printing.

- In addition, OTA issued a staff paper and special report on scientific and technical information issues, as a followon to Informing the Nation. OTA's July 1990 report Helping America Compete: The Role of Federal STI served to focus attention on the role of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, just as Informing the Nation focused attention on the role of the Office of Management and Budget.

- Also, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science held a major hearing on Informing the Nation, conducted a series of related public forums, and issued a set of principles on information policy.

- Finally, many professional groups gave considerable attention to Federal information issues; these include, for example, the American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, OMB Watch, American Civil Liberties Union, and Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

- For a full list of relevant materials, I call your attention to the references cited in Kurt Molholm's access paper in your folder.

- In sum, the information policy community did rise to the challenge of mobilizing itself; and all the participants--in and out of government, on and off the hill--are to be commended.

- But the concerted efforts of the information policy community were not sufficient to enact a legislated Federal information policy or to get a White House leadership commitment to Federal information.

- We in the information policy community have convinced ourselves that accessible and usable Federal information is critical to increasing productivity, expanding literacy, and strengthening democracy; but this is not enough. We must extend this understanding to the broader society--and especially to the educational, scientific, research, business, and consumer communities. This we must do if we are to build on the last 2 years of effort and ensure a successful White House conference next year, and congressional and presidential action based on that conference.

III. An Emerging Policy Consensus

- The White House conference could affirm 10 policy principles or guidelines that I think emerged from the legislative debate over the last 2 years and are at least implicit in the legislation that didn't quite get through the 101st Congress. All of these principles are critical to implementing access. Note that Federal libraries and information centers, including the national libraries, are Federal agencies for purposes of these principles.

Here are the 10 principles.

1. Federal information is in the public domain and available to the public, unless it falls within specific statutory exemptions (e.g., national security, privacy, export control, proprietary, or executive privilege).

2. User access is the first priority of Federal information policy. Agencies should make sure that Federal information is accessible, affordable, and usable by those who need it.

3. Access to electronic formats is a right not a privilege. The advantages of electronic formats are so great that agencies should guarantee equity of access regardless of format.

4. Federal agencies should have the primary responsibility for disseminating Federal information that they collect or create, including enough "value-added" to make the data or documents accessible and usable.

5. The private sector has an important complementary or supplementary--but not preemptive--role in Federal information dissemination. The old OMB Circular A-130 rhetoric of "maximum feasible reliance on the private sector" no longer applies to Federal information.

6. The governmentwide information dissemination agencies such as the Government Printing Office and National Technical Information Service also have important roles in complementing or supplementing--

but, again, not preempting--Federal agency electronic dissemination activities. The old paradigm of centralized control over paper documents does not necessarily or automatically extend to inherently decentralized electronic formats.

7. The price for Federal information should not exceed the marginal cost of dissemination. The cost of collecting, processing, and storing Federal information should be excluded. Agency heads should have the authority to waive some or all user fees, if necessary to carry out agency statutory objectives.

8. The Depository Library Program should fully participate in the electronic dissemination of Federal information, in order to preserve and strengthen the integrity of this "information lifeline."

9. All Federal agencies should participate in an integrated governmentwide index to publicly available data, documents, and directories.

10. All Federal agencies should include information access and related dissemination requirements in each agency's "life cycle" approach to information resources management and agency automation.

There is one other principle that I'd like to add, and it goes something like this.

11. Federal libraries and information centers serve inherently governmental functions and are vital to ensuring public access to Federal information. As such, libraries and information centers should not be subject to mandatory privatization or contracting out, and should be exempted from OMB Circular A-76.

IV. Reaching Out

- Assuming the White House conference can agree on this or some similar list of policy principles, the key will then be to capture the interest of the broader society, so that there will be support for enacting and implementing these principles as national policy.

- There are many opportunities to do this. I will cite just two: global change, and elementary/secondary education.

- How many of you participated in Earth Day 1990 in any way, at home, in your local community, on the Mall? Raise your hands please. How many of you watched an Earth Day-related program on TV?
- Earth Day exemplified the importance of Federal information. During the last year, the strong linkages between Federal information and solving national and global environmental problems has been recognized.

- Regardless of your views on specific environmental issues, Federal information is essential to understand, monitor, and solve problems such as climate change, deforestation, and acid rain.
- Perhaps the White House conference can help further clarify the linkages between global change and national information policy.

- Switching to education, how many of you have kids in grades 4-12? Raise your hands.
- How many have kids in grades 4-12 that are comfortable with personal computers?
- One of the most exciting opportunities is the use of Federal information by junior and senior high school students, and even by some elementary school students.
- For example, the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with NOAA, NASA, and private vendors is implementing Project JEDI--the Joint Earth Sciences Educational Initiative--to bring earth sciences information in CD-ROM format to high school students in Northern Virginia.

V. In Conclusion

In sum, the task of the White House conference is in my view two-fold: first, to articulate a set of carefully framed Federal information policy principles, and second, to articulate why the public and the nation should care.

We need a large dose of vision and forward-thinking. Along these lines, a final question for you. How many watch the TV series "Star Trek: The New Generation?" Raise your hands. I commend this program to you.

For while it may be a little ambitious for us to reach the stars by the year 2000, it is within our grasp to make the information systems of the U.S. Starship Enterprise a reality for the Federal Government.

What we need at the White House conference is the equivalent of warp factor 8 applied to the realm of Federal information. In the words of Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, "engage."

Thank you and good luck.

Federal Delegates to WHCLIS II

DELEGATES **ALTERNATES**

Information Professional Category

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Affiliation: Database Product Management Specialist, National Technical Information Service

Government Officials Category

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Affiliation: Assistant Division Chief of Information and Sales Mapping, U.S. Geological Survey

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Advisory Boards Category

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Affiliations: Secretary Director of CENDI (Commerce, Energy, NASA NLM, Defense Information Managers)
President of Information International

Egon Weiss
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Affiliations: Librarian Emeritus, U.S. Military Academy
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Citizens Category

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Affiliation: President, King Research, Inc.

Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services WHCLIS II

OFFICIAL BALLOT 1990

Please mark this ballot, fold and return. Ballots must be received at the Registration Desk by 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27.

Information Professionals

(Vote for one)

☐ 01. Kathryn Earnest
☐ 02. Doria Beachell Grimes
☐ 03. Linda Holz
☐ 04. Stanley Kalkus
☐ 05. Elisabeth Knauff
☐ 06. Orrine Woinowsk

Government Officials

(Vote for one)

☐ 11. Bernadine A. Hoduski
☐ 12. Kurt N. Molholm
☐ 13. Gary W. North
☐ 14. Robert M. Stonehill
☐ 15. Stephen Walker

Advisory Boards

(Vote for one)

☐ 07. Bonnie Carroll
☐ 08. Patricia P. Trzaskoma
☐ 09. Egon Weiss
☐ 10. Norma J. Yess

Citizens

(Vote for one)

☐ 16. Virginia Antos
☐ 17. Donald W. King
☐ 18. Davis B. McCarn
☐ 19. Judi Moline
☐ 20. Christie D. Vernon

These nominations have been made in accordance with the WHCLIS Bylaws.
Delegate Selection Committee
Sharon McKinley, *Chairperson*

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Elisabeth S. Knauff

Title Library Director

Agency/Department represented Department of the Treasury
(if applicable)

Address 5310 Treasury Building, Washington DC 20220

Phone number 202 566-2069

Experience related to White House Conference:

Department of the Treasury representative to the Federal Library and Information Center since 1979. Member of FLICC Executive Advisory Bd. since 1985. Member of Policy Working Group. President Federal Librarians Round Table of the American Library Association, 1987-1988. Former FLRT representative to the ALA Legislative Assembly. Active participant on FLRT A-76 Working Group, 1981-1984.

Member of the Board of Directors of the Special Libraries Association. 1983-1986. Worked to strengthen SLA Government Relations activities during this period.

Statement of goals/concerns:

The public in general has very little comprehension of the wealth of Federal information funded by their tax dollars which should be available to them. The Federal library and information community must be a node in a national information infrastructure. In addition, the Government must realize the need to devote additional resources to preserve these information sources and develop means to facilitate citizen access to them. The White House Conference provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about the nature and value of Federal information resources and to begin developing a base of support for the resources needed, both funds and staff, to realize the full potential value of Federal information to the public.

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FLICC, 10/5/90

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name DORIA BEACHELL GRIMES

Title PRODUCT MANAGER

Agency/Department represented NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
(if applicable)

Address 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161

Phone number (703) 487-4929

Experience related to White House Conference:

- One of two coordinators for the Federal Pre-White House Conference. My duties included working with the four committees and three issue groups in preparing for the event.

- As President of the District of Columbia Library Association, I am also working with the staff at Martin Luther King Public Library as they prepare for their Mayor's Pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services on April 25, 1991. I am co-chair of the District's Program and Issues Committee.

Statement of goals/concerns:

My chief concern is the issue of access to government information. Have regulations and budget cutbacks restricted the citizens' ability to obtain information?

My goal is to encourage more widespread access to government information. One tool is to utilize today's electronic networking capabilities in such a manner as to available to the citizenry.

As a co-coordinator for this event, I would like to follow through on the recommendations from this conference and present them to WHCLIS in July 1991.

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FLICC, 10/5/90

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Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Gary W. North

Title Assistant Division Chief, National Mapping Division

Agency/Department represented U.S. Geological Survey
(if applicable)

Address 508 National Center, Reston, Virginia 22092

Phone number 703-648-5780

Experience related to White House Conference:

Principal Geological Survey official responsible for the collection and dissemination of arth science information. Former chief of the National Cartographic Information Center, he USGS Public Inquiries Offices, the Publications Division and chief of the Mississippi arth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) office which handled satellite and aircraft emotely sensed data. Responsible for the Federal Map Depository Library program. United tates delegate to the Geography and Map Section of the International Federation of ibrary Association (IFLA), member of the American Library Association (ALA) and the merican Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Member of the Board of rustees of Davis and Elkins College and Chairman of the Library Committee.

Statement of goals/concerns:

My goal is to work toward establishing a focus within the Federal Government for nformation Policy and to establish common policies on access, pricing and dissemination. y principal concerns relate to digital data and how it will be handled within the informaion community. Such problems as cost, media and software are of specific interest.

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Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Kurt N. Molholm

Title Administrator

Agency/Department represented (if applicable) Defense Technical Information Center

Address Cameron Station, Alexandria, VA 22304-6145

Phone number (703) 274-6800

Experience related to White House Conference: Currently Administrator, Defense Technical Information Center; member FLICC Executive Advisory Committee; Chairman, FLICC Policy Working Group; Treasurer National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services; U.S. Delegate to NATO's Advisory Group for Aerospace R&D Technical Information Panel. Chairman of Access Issue Working Group; delegate to Virginia Governor's Conference of Libraries and Information Services. Participated on OTA Review Panel on "Informing the Nation." B.S. in Business Administration and M.S. in Public Administration.

Statement of goals/concerns: Libraries and Information Centers provide the foundation of the Nation's knowledge base. Exploiting this knowledge base is critical to an improved educational system and increased national productivity and competitiveness. Information technology has already had a significant and widespread impact on information availability. My interest is in expanding the information infrastructure to reduce access barriers and create a "library without walls." I have a solid background in this area, with years of experience in computer and telecommunication management and currently as Head of one of the largest technical information centers.

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Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Bonnie C. Carroll

Title President, Information International & Secretariat Director, CENDI

Agency/Department represented
(if applicable)

Address P.O. Box 141, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Phone number 615/481-0388

Experience related to White House Conference: Ms. Carroll has 20 years of experience in government, industry, and academia with responsibility for all aspects of information resources management. She has worked in academic and special libraries, in specialized clearinghouses and information centers, and on special information studies and projects. Her information interests relate to special aspects of the three WHCLIS themes of literacy, democracy and productivity. She has been very involved in understanding the relationship between effective information, capitalization (with information technology) of the knowledge worker and personal and national productivity. With regard to democracy, Ms. Carroll served as a link between the Dept. of Energy and the Depository Library Community on making electronic information available to the public. On the literacy question, Ms. Carroll has been personally involved in a local Tennessee literacy council as a member of the Board of Directors and professionally involved from the point of view of information literacy.

Statement of goals/concerns: The U. S. Library and Information Service community is a very pluralistic one. At the WHCLISII it is important to have all aspects of the community represented. Ms. Carroll has largely been involved in the high technology and specialized scientific and technical information (STI) constituency. It is important that the recognition of the achievements of this group be effectively used and transferred to other parts of the library and information community in the U. S. This relates to reasonable access to STI, by the professional and the lay public, transfer of the information technology applications developed by the STI, community and recognition of the importance of the information as a national resource by national policy makers. For example, a specific program of interest is the development of the National Education and Research Network (NREN). Issues of development and access to a universal electronic highway system will be as critical to the future as the telephone and roadway infrastructures are to the present. This and other issues should be discussed by WHCLISII.

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FLICC, 10/5/90

102

Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Egon A. Weiss

Title Librarian-Emeritus, U.S. Military Academy

Agency/Department represented (if applicable)

Address 33 Spruce Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520

Phone number 914-534-9467

Experience related to White House Conference:

Ten years of service in public libraries and 30 years of progressive experience as an academic librarian with broad responsibilities for planning resources and service including buildings, automation, preservation, and development. Activities included leadership in professional organizations (ALA, SLA), as well as work with local, regional and state.

Statement of goals/concerns:

To help develop and shape national policies for all libraries which will assist their transition into the twentyfirst century. I like to see the ralizztion of total access to all resources and services for all present and potential library users. I am equally concerned for the utmost need for preserving and restoring rapidly deteriorating materials.

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FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Davis B. McCarn

Title President, OnLineInformation International, Inc.

Agency/Department represented
(if applicable)

Address ~~5020 Nicholson Ct. Suite 204~~

Phone number Kensington, MD. 20895

Experience related to White House Conference:

Managed the development and operation of MEDLARS II and MEDLINE at NLM. Taught library automation at Univ. of MD. CLIS retired 1978. Mana Managed computerization of Readers' Guide and 26 other indexes at the H. W. Wilson Co. Created and developed Greatful MED through five versions on the IBM PC and two on the Macintosh.

Statement of goals/concerns:

1. Federal library support of version in tight fiscal times
2. Creation of National Library
3. Subject access to monographic materials.

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FLICC, 10/5/90

Delegate Self-Nomination

Qualifications: (The information below will be reproduced and made available to delegates attending the federal preconference; please do not attach any pages, and use only the space provided below. NO RESUMES PLEASE.)

Name Donald W. King

Title President

Agency/Department represented (if applicable)

Address Post Office Box 572; Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Phone number (615) 481-0389

Experience related to White House Conference:

Reviewed all pre-White House Conference resolutions and recommendations and developed themes for last White House Conference. Performed four OMB-A76 reviews for Federal libraries. Performed over 300 other clearinghouse and library-related studies. Conducted four copyright studies. Testified before Congress on OMB-A76 issues and STI concerns. Published 12 books and over 200 other formal publications in related areas.

Statement of goals/concerns:

OMB-A76 (contracting out Federal libraries)

Intellectual property

Recognition of the use, usefulness and value of Federal libraries, clearinghouses and other information services.

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FLICC. 10/5/90

105

RECOMMENDATION

1. Preservation Plan for Federal Libraries

Doc. 1

I. ISSUE: Federal libraries, archives, and information centers hold unique and/ or irreplaceable materials vital both to the integrity of our nation's democratic heritage and to our future productivity, but currently lack the resources and standardized procedures to preserve these holdings.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

That an appropriate Federal agency be funded to develop and implement a preservation policy plan for Federal libraries, archives, and information centers, to include:

1. Preservation education awareness for policy-makers and technical/professional training for staff;
2. Inventory of collections in order to identify unique and/or irreplaceable materials, either for their intellectual content, physical format, or both;
3. Establishment of priorities for preservation of our cultural and intellectual heritage;
4. Achievement of continued funding for preservation of materials identified;
5. Identification of materials already preserved in order to avoid duplication.

RECOMMENDATION

2. National Preservation Policy

Doc. 2

I. ISSUE: How should efforts, which will centralize and standardize the preservation of library and archival materials in the United States, be organized?

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

That legislation be enacted to define, fund, and implement a national preservation policy which includes the establishment of a national preservation center to:

1. Specify standards;
2. Conduct research;
3. Promote education;
4. Serve as a clearinghouse for preservation issues, including disaster planning;
5. Generate public awareness of the need for preservation funding and activity.

RECOMMENDATION

3. National Networking Policy

Doc. 3

I. ISSUE: How can the Federal library, archive, and information center community develop mechanisms to strengthen networking and resource sharing, and improve services to users in all segments of our society?

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

The creation of a national networking policy.

It is further recommended that Federal Libraries and other information agencies be funded to participate in a national (and ultimately, international) network by:

1. Making use of existing network structures, while planning for future technologies;
2. Fostering cooperation and standardization of communication protocols among federal, state, local, and private information organizations;
3. Keeping foremost the use as the focus of the endeavor, and giving priority to providing affordable access;
4. Promoting educational programs for the user.

RECOMMENDATION

4. Multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network

Doc. 4

I. ISSUE: Universal access to Federal information through full participation of Federal libraries and information centers in NREN and other networking activities must be recognized as a vital component in the national information infrastructure.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Federal Library and Information Center Committee be authorized and empowered to take a leadership role in building a strong, coherent, multi-type Federal Library and Information Center Network, such as NREN, and cost effective resource sharing, to ensure provision of vital information services to Federal agencies and the general public;

2. That the National Science Foundation plan and fund a demonstration project connecting federal, state, academic, special, public, and school libraries to NSFNET, INTERNET, or NREN (for example) to determine the uses, issues, and problems of networking libraries and the impact of such networking on the services and staffs of libraries.

RECOMMENDATION

5. Depository Library Program

Doc. 5

I. ISSUE: The Federal Depository Library Program should be strengthened as a means of economical and efficient sharing of government information among Federal Libraries, their parent agencies, and the public.

Priority: National
High

II. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Urge Congress to sufficiently fund the Depository Library Program so it can provide all needed Federal Government information to all participants, including Federal libraries;

2. Urge the President to direct Federal agencies to cooperate with the Depository Program by providing their information (as referred to in Section 1901, Title 44, of the U.S. Code) to the system;

3. Require that all government-funded and/or produced information be provided to the program.

RECOMMENDATION

6. Fees for Service

Doc. 6

ISSUE: To what extent, if any, should fees be charged by Federal libraries, archives, or information centers for information services to the public?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) be charged to convene representatives of Federal libraries, archives, information centers, other concerned agencies, and users, to study the issue of fees for service and recommend policy in this area;

2. That the White House Conference on Library and Information Services recommend that NCLIS undertake this study.

We direct that a copy of this recommendation be sent to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

RECOMMENDATION

7. Endorsement of the NCLIS "Public Information Principles"

Doc. 7

ISSUE: The need for Legislative, Executive, and public support for the ongoing , vitally important effort to develop principles of access to public information.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

The endorsement, by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, to be held in 1991, of the "*PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION*" statement issued by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in July, 1990.

This is understood to include all material from "Preamble" to and including the "Conclusion." (See attached.)

The full text of the "Principles of Public Information" follows:

PREAMBLE

From the birth of our nation, open and uninhibited access to public information has ensured good government and a free society. Public information helps to educate our people, stimulate our progress and solve our most complex economic, scientific and social problems. With the coming of the Information Age and its many new technologies, however, public information has expanded so quickly that basic principles regarding its creation, use and dissemination are in danger of being neglected and even forgotten.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, therefore, reaffirms that the information policies of the U.S. government are based on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and on the recognition of public information as a national resource to be developed and preserved in the public interest. We define *public information* as information created, compiled and/or maintained by the Federal Government. We assert that public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law. It is in this spirit of public ownership and public trust that we offer the following Principles of Public Information.

1. The public has the right of access to public information.

Government agencies should guarantee open, timely and uninhibited access to public information except where restricted by law. People should be able to access public information, regardless of its format, without any special training or expertise.

2. The Federal Government should guarantee the integrity and preservation of public information, regardless of its format.

By maintaining public information in the face of changing times and technologies, government agencies assure the government's accountability and the accessibility of the government's business to the public.

3. The Federal Government should guarantee the dissemination, reproduction, and redistribution of public information.

Any restriction of dissemination or any other function dealing with public information must be strictly defined by law.

4. The Federal Government should safeguard the privacy of persons who use or request information, as well as persons about whom information exists in government records.

5. The Federal Government should ensure a wide diversity of sources of access, private as well as governmental, to public information.

Although sources of access may change over time and because of advances in technology, government agencies have an obligation to the public to encourage diversity.

6. The Federal Government should not allow cost to obstruct the people's access to public information.

Costs incurred by creating, collecting and processing information for the government's own purposes should not be passed on to people who wish to utilize public information.

7. The Federal Government should ensure that information about government information is easily available and in a single index accessible in a variety of formats.

The government index of public information should be in addition to inventories of information kept within individual government agencies.

8. The Federal Government should guarantee the public's access to public information, regardless of where they live and work, through national networks and programs like the Depository Library Program.

Government agencies should periodically review such programs as well as the emerging technology to ensure that access to public information remains inexpensive and convenient to the public.

CONCLUSION

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science offers these Principles of Public Information as a foundation for the decisions made throughout the Federal Government and the nation regarding issues of public information. We urge all branches of the Federal Government, state and local governments and the private sector to utilize these principles in the development of information policies and in the creation, use, dissemination and preservation of public information. We believe that in so acting, they will serve the best interests of the nation and the people in the Information Age.

The National Commission also passed a resolution at its June meeting expressing its determination to follow up on the "Principles of Public Information" with a series of policy statements on actions needed to fully implement the "Principles."

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is a permanent, independent agency of the Federal Government charged with advising both Congress and the President on matters relating to national library and information policies and plans.

RECOMMENDATION

8. Knowledge Transfer Systems as National Priority

Doc. 8

ISSUE: What is needed in order that Federal libraries, archives, and information centers can best support the mission of their agencies as well as provide access to their resources?

BACKGROUND: Libraries and information services are the foundation of the nation's knowledge transfer system which, in turn, is a critical element of any program to improve the education system and the national competitiveness. Investment in libraries and information services is an investment in the future strength of the Nation.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Federal government make education, national competitiveness, and the needed knowledge transfer systems a national priority, and that Federal agencies be directed to develop their budgets in accordance with this policy;

We further recommend that these budgets be sufficient to support the mission of the agency as well as services needed by the public.

RECOMMENDATION

9. Libraries as Inherently Governmental Functions

Doc. 9

ISSUE: How can high quality Federal information services be provided to key agency officials, policy makers, and program staff when library services are frequently not recognized as vital support services for fulfilling the agency's mission.

Priority: National
High

BACKGROUND: (See attached.)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Urge Congress to designate Federal libraries and archives as "inherently governmental" functions, not subject to mandatory contracting out.
2. Request the President to instruct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove Federal libraries from the list of commercial activities included in OMB Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities," because those libraries are "inherently governmental" functions.
3. Request the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove "library" from the list of activities targeted for review throughout the Federal government for potential contracting out.

II. Background: The U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities," establishes federal policy regarding the operation of commercial activities and requires federal agencies to conduct cost comparisons to determine the most economical way to perform commercial activities—by private commercial source or in-house, using government facilities and personnel. The circular lists library services along with such things as vending machines, custodial services, laundry services and photography as examples of activities which are targeted for contracting out. Since 1984, libraries have been on an OMB list of functions targeted for A-76 review throughout the federal government. Agencies can also contract out functions with 10 or fewer employees without first conducting cost comparison studies, making small libraries doubly vulnerable.

The impetus to contract out commercial activities gained momentum in 1983, and since then a number of federal libraries have been turned over to the private sector for operation. An accurate count is difficult, but does include four cabinet-level federal libraries, three of them operated by the same foreign-owned company.

III. Questions for Discussion:

- Are federal libraries inherently governmental functions?

- Does contracting out federal libraries protect inherently governmental functions and the nation's information resources?

- Does contracting out only make government appear smaller when, in actuality, the taxpayers' money is paid to a contractor instead of government employees?

- What happens to the quality of service to the public when there is a less experienced and more transient work force in federal libraries?

- Are the claimed cost savings, efficiencies or economies accurate?

- Are dynamic long-term contract costs sufficiently considered, such as low buy-ins with escalating costs and contract modifications?

- What will be the long-term effects on government of lost accountability, lost knowledge from a stable civilian work force, lost managerial decision-making ability due to diminished in-house capabilities?

- Are national security and readiness jeopardized when responsibility for sensitive proprietary material is contracted out?

- Will contracting out federal libraries inhibit major technological changes that impact performance?

IV. Suggested Solutions

1) Promote national recognition of the need to have federal library and information centers managed by qualified professional librarians who are employed as government employees by the agency for which they work.

2) Have references to "libraries" and "library services" deleted from OMB Circular A-76 so that library managers will be free to choose when, where, and how to make the best use of library support services contracts.

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3) Encourage federal librarians to become more involved in government decision-making, especially concerning information policies and programs.

4) Urge the Federal Library and Information Center to conduct a government-wide survey/study of libraries that have been contracted out.

5) Encourage national, state, and local library professional associations to address the implications for the entire profession and all public sector libraries of the designation of federal libraries as "commercial activities".

V. Recommendations (National, high priority)

1) Urge Congress to designate federal libraries as inherently governmental functions, not subject to contracting out.

2) Request the President to instruct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove federal libraries from the list of commercial activities included in OMB Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities", because those libraries are inherently governmental functions.

3) Request the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove "library" from the list of activities targeted for review throughout the federal government for potential contracting out.

VI. Justification

1) Contracting of entire federal libraries threatens the continuity of essential information services to government decision makers and the public.

2) In times of tight budgets, contractor-libraries will be prime targets for elimination without regard to the information needs of the agency staff or the public.

VII. Implementing Strategies

VIII. Impact

1) Democracy: As integral parts of the agencies they serve, federal libraries provide public access to government information.

2) Productivity: The basic mission of a federal agency could well be compromised if the quality of its library or other information resouces deteriorates.

RECOMMENDATION

10. Locator System for Federal Information

Doc. 10

ISSUE: How can the Federal Government provide a comprehensive access system to information generated by all Federal agencies?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That Congress mandate a comprehensive locator system for Federal public information, which will be established and maintained under the aegis of an appropriate Federal agency, and will include:

1. Reference to (or use of) existing systems;
2. Availability in all formats;
3. The development of standards for data elements, media, and formats as a federal standard;
4. Information generated by all governmental agencies;
5. Emphasis on increased resources sharing.

We further recommend that the Library of Congress and other national libraries, archives,and information centers identify resources needed to define and adopt standards to improve intellectual access to this and other bibliographic materials.

We further recommend that the Congress authorize and appropriate funds for the development and maintenance of the inventory, and that one funding resource be the the funds collected under the Freedom of Information Act which now must be returned to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

RECOMMENDATION

11. National Information Policy (Congressional)

Doc. 11

ISSUE: The United States has no national information policy. There are a series of uncoordinated, disjointed information law, policies, and regulations, each addressing specific area., e.g., FOIA, security, telecommunications. How can the many, often inconsistent information policies be melded together?

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That Congress be urged to enact an integrated, comprehensive national information policy, which establishes the value of information as a national resource, explains why a national information infrastructure is critical, how this structure shall be managed, what organizational structure will have a continuing responsibility for the oversight, and how the development and maintenance of the infrastructure should be funded.

RECOMMENDATION

12. Five-year White House Conference

Doc. 12

ISSUE: There is a need to maintain momentum from the White House Conference and to track attainment of national information goals and priorities.

Priority: National
High

RECOMMENDATION:

That an interim conference be held five years after each White House Conference, under the aegis of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, to assess the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the previous conference and to project further improvement in light of national needs.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Ten-year White House Conference

Doc. 13

ISSUE: As a national resource, library and information services in the next decade should have national attention and input.

BACKGROUND:

At the White House Conference of 1979, a resolution was passed by the entire Conference, that a White House or Federal Conference on Library and Information Service be held every decade to establish the national information goals and priorities for the next decade. This recommendation is to re-enforce this earlier commitment.

We note that the White House Conference 1979 resolution was first introduced at the Federal Pre-White House Conference.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that a White House Conference on Library and Information Service be held every decade, to establish the national goals and priorities in information policy for the next decade; to assure effective access, and increase of knowledge to all citizens, and to accomplish this goal in the light of rapid and innovative changes in technology and practice which are certain to occur.

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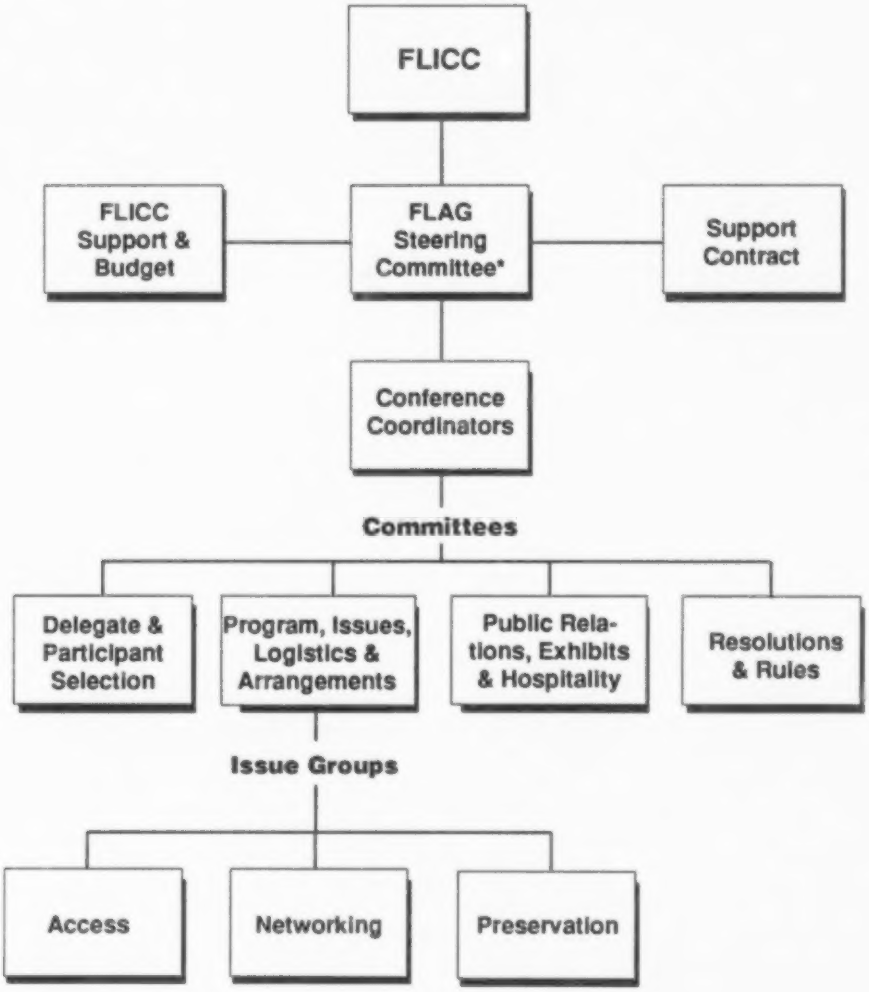
FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services Organization Chart



*NOTE—Steering Committee members: FLAG Review Group plus member from Armed Forces; Chris Zirps, FLICC; Conference Coordinators

LIST OF EXHIBITORS

AMERICAN MEMORY, Library of Congress, Special Projects
Carl Fleischauer, coordinator
Ricky Erway, associate coordinator/exhibitor

STANDARD REFERENCE DATA PROGRAM,
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Dr. Malcolm W. Chase, director
Phoebe Fagan and Gerry Dalton, exhibitors

WHCLIS CONNECTION,
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
Sandy Mileviski, project coordinator

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE (NTIS)
Doris Doran, project coordinator

DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER (DTIC)
Claudia Devlin
Clara Gannon

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY
Dr. Alan Fusonie, Coordinator
Ronald B. Young, exhibitor

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE/PRESERVATION
Margaret Byrnes

FLAG Steering Committee

Elizabeth Yeates, Chair—Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dorothy Cross, Former Chair—Pentagon Library
Adelaide Del Frate—National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Patricia Dobrosky—Customs Service Library and Information Center
Kathryn Earnest, Coordinator—Pentagon Library
Doria Grimes, Coordinator—National Technical Information Service
Sigrid Harriman—Library of Congress
Elisabeth Knauff—Treasury Library
Mary Berghaus Levering—Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Library of Congress
Karen Renninger—Department of Veterans Affairs Library
Nell Strickland—Army Community and Family Support Center
Chris Zirps—Federal Library and Information Center Committee

FLAG Committees

Delegate Selection

Karen Renninger, FLAG Liaison—Department of Veterans Affairs Library
Sharon McKinley, Chair—National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress
Kersti Blumenthal—Library of Congress
Elwynda Chapman—Bureau of the Census
Lorna Dodt—Pentagon Library
Mercedes Emperado—Federal Emergency Management Agency
Don Fork—Department of Education
Ruth Nussbaum—National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress
Randall J. Snyder—State Department Library
Laurie Stackpole—Naval Research Laboratory Technical Library

Program

Kathryn Earnest, FLAG Liaison—Pentagon Library
Doria Grimes, FLAG Liaison—National Technical Information Service
Sandra Young, Chair—Defense Technical Information Center
Carolyn Brown—National Institute of Health Library
Ida Johnson—Army Ballistic Research Laboratory Technical Library

Public Relations

Adelaide Del Frate, FLAG Liaison—National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Marie T. O'Mara, Co-Chair—Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Tech Center
Denise Wiltshire, Co-Chair—U.S. Geological Survey
Harriet Albertsheim—Food and Drug Administration Library
Vicki Avera—Smithsonian Institution Libraries

FLAG Committees, cont.

Public Relations, cont.

Steven Balanda—Army Corps of Engineers Library
Mary Blair—Executive Office of the President, Law Library
Gail L. Chagnon—Defense Technical Information Center
Linda Corbelli—Executive Office of the President, Law Library
Vera Clyburn—Executive Office of the President, Law Library
Patricia D. Coulter—ERIC Branch, U.S. Department of Education
Dee M. De Leva—Federal Aviation Administration
Ann Dugan—Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Library
Susan Fugate—National Agricultural Library
Sharon Geiger—Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Library
Regina Hamilton— Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress
Marcia Hanna—Defense Technical Information Center
Nora Jason—National Institute of Standards and Technology
Patricia Koch—ORD Library
Sarah Mikel—Army Corps of Engineers Libraries
Tarnyal D. Mitchell—Defense Technical Information Center
Barbara Morrison—Environmental Protection Agency Law Library
Enayet Rahim—National Endowment for the Humanities
Shelia Riley—Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Jill Ruspi—National Institute of Standards and Technology
Marcia Stone—Defense Technical Information Center

Rules and Resolutions

Doria Grimes, FLAG Liaison—National Technical Information Service
Christine D. Vernon, Chair—Saint Leo College, Langley AFB
Elwynda Chapman—Bureau of the Census
Linda Harris Holz— Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Ida Johnson—Army Ballistic Research Laboratory Technical Library

FLAG Issue Groups

Access

Patricia Dobrosky, FLAG Liaison—Customs Service Library and Information Center
Susan Buyer-Slater—National Library of Medicine
Barbara Fontana—Commission on Civil Rights
Bernadine A. Hoduski—Joint Committee on Printing
Barbara Lesser—Defense Technical Information Center
Kurt Molholm—Defense Technical Information Center
Enayet Rahim—National Endowment for the Humanities
George W. Spicely—Department of Education

FLAG Issue Groups, cont.

Networking

Sigrid Harriman, FLAG Liaison—Library of Congress
Jeanne Bohlen, Co-Chair—Institute of Peace
Vija Karklins, Co-Chair—Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Mary Huffer—Retired Federal Librarian
Sarah Mikel—Army Corps of Engineers Libraries
Jewel Player—Pentagon Library
Cathy J. Wiley—Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence

Preservation

Dorothy Cross, FLAG Liaison—Pentagon Library
Charles Gallagher, Co-Chair—Naval Ordnance Station Library
Ann Juneau, Co-Chair—Natural History Branch Library, Smithsonian Institution
Margaret Byrnes—National Library of Medicine
Alan Fusonie—National Agricultural Library
Richard E. Myers—National Archives and Records Administration
Carmelita L. Portugal—Office of Surface Mining Library, Department of Interior
Robert E. Schnare—Naval War College Library
William Underdue—Binding Office, Library of Congress
Paula Vincent—Pentagon Library

Critical Incidents

Elizabeth Yeates, FLAG Liaison—Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Issue Group Moderators

Kathy Eighmey, FEDLINK Network Librarian
Patti Fields, FEDLINK Network Librarian
Steve Kerchoff, FEDLINK Network Librarian
Richard E. Myers—National Archives and Records Administration
David Pachter, FEDLINK Network Librarian

Preconference Support

Federal Library and Information Center Committee

Mary Berghaus Levering, Executive Director
Chris Zirps, FLICC Liaison to the Preconference
Dee Dolan, Editor-in-Chief/Education Coordinator
Rich Cermak, Writer/Editor
Melissa Becher, Editorial Assistant/Writer

The Nonprofit Management Associates, Inc.

Lynn Kneedler, Project Manager
Robin Abner
Barry Becker
Leslie Jiuiden

Federal Libraries and Information Centers and the White House Conference

Federal Pre-White House Conference: In preparation for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II), the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services is scheduled to convene at the National Library of Medicine, Lister Hill Center, in Bethesda, Maryland, November 26-27, 1990.

The Preconference goals are to:

- Promote the theme of "citizen access to federal information resources through federal agency informational organizations." The guiding principle of the federal preconference is that "access is the key" for the improvement of information services to increase productivity, expand literacy, and strengthen democracy.
- Promote the cause of the federal library and information center program through interaction with the White House Conference process.

Federal Representation to WHCLIS: Recognized as an important factor in the nation's information infrastructure, the federal sector this year was assigned four delegates and four alternates by the White House Conference Advisory Committee (WHCAC), as well as a financial grant from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), sponsor of the WHCLIS II.

Preconference Planning: The Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) has set up four standing committees to handle all assignments for the preconference. They are: Delegate and Participant Selection, Public Relations/Exhibits/Hospitality, Program/Issues/Logistics and Arrangements, and Resolution and Rules. In addition, four core issue groups have been established to formulate the federal position:

- access
- networking
- preservation
- funding

The Preconference objectives are to:

- Develop resolutions reflecting the consensus of the federal community on access, networking, and preservation.
- Elect delegates to the second White House Conference, scheduled for July 9-13, 1991 in Washington, D.C.

Conference Speakers:

- Dr. Fred B. Wood, Senior Associate, Office of Technology Assessment/*Access*
- Dr. Neal K. Kaske, Senior Associate, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Library Programs/*Networking*
- Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head, Special Collections, National Agricultural Library/*Preservation*
- Joseph H. Howard, Director, National Agricultural Library/*Funding*

Steering Committee: Working with FLICC and FLAG to publicize federal efforts, solicit nominations for delegates to the preconference, and coordinate other forms of participation by the federal community are: Elizabeth Yeates, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, chair of the FLAG Steering Committee, and Kathryn L. Earnest, Pentagon Library, and Doria Beachell Grimes, National Technical Information Service, who have joined the Steering Committee as preconference coordinators.

Background: In November 1986, a joint meeting of FLICC/NCLIS (National Commission on Libraries and Information Science) began laying the groundwork for the federal sector participation in WHCLIS II. The FLICC task force for WHCLIS II subsequently met at the Library of Congress, elected officers, and formed a review group to evaluate sixty-four recommendations of WHCLIS I (1979). The review group identified the main areas of current concern as networking, funding, preservation, and access policies and recommended that these and related issues be addressed under the umbrella of "equal opportunity of access to federal information."

A proposal on the basic issue of citizen access to federal information was presented by FLICC delegates at the ninth annual meeting of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) held in Minneapolis in August, 1988. The FLICC statement was endorsed at most of the regional workshops and even recommended as an agenda item for WHCLIS II. The statement not only reflected the concerns of federal librarians, but also addressed each of the major themes of WHCLIS II—democracy, literacy, and productivity.

FLICC reconstituted its task force for WHCLIS II as the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLICC/FLAG) to develop the "access" theme and ensure continued participation by the federal information community as it moved toward WHCLIS II. The discussions led to submittal of a proposed resolution—Citizen Access to Federal Information Resources Through Federal Agencies—at the tenth annual meeting of WHCLIST in Portland, Oregon, in August, 1989. A WHCLIST policy statement was adopted at this meeting, stating that it would not be appropriate for WHCLIST to take action on issues, positions, and resolutions for a second WHCLIS. These should be the responsibility of delegates to WHCLIS II, the task force said. However, FLICC's proposed resolution, together with a FLICC fact sheet, were distributed to all WHCLIST attendees and sent to the WHCLIST secretariat for the record. This resolution will be reviewed by all the delegates to the federal preconference and issued in its final format as a recommendation to the national WHCLIS II.

Outreach: The FLAG Steering Committee has named liaisons to the library and information center community to exchange views and information and to enlist support for these core issues. These library and information organizations include the American Library Association, Special Libraries Association (SLA), Military Librarians Division of SLA, American Society For Information Science (ASIS), and CENDI (an interagency working group including: Commerce, Energy, NASA, National Library of Medicine, and the Department of Defense). In addition, the resolutions developed by the federal community will be exchanged with state conferences to build support for national level issues.

Fact Sheet, rev. 10/23/90

FLICC
Federal Library and Information Center Committee
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 707-6055

FLICC Factsheet
Number 1

Federal Library and Information Center Committee History and Background

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) was established in 1965 (as the Federal Library Committee) by the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget to provide leadership and assistance to the nation's federal libraries and information centers, which today number more than 2,500. This information infrastructure stretches from coast to coast, to Hawaii and Alaska, and to American facilities in Europe and other parts of the world.

FLICC is an administrative division of the office of the assistant librarian for national programs at the Library of Congress. The official chair of FLICC is Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, and the chair designate is Donald C. Curran, acting associate librarian of congress for constituent services.

Membership of FLICC is limited to the following predesignated permanent members: representatives of the three national libraries—the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library—and each of the executive branch departments and the following agencies: Administrative Offices of the U.S. Courts, Defense Technical Information Center (Department of Defense), Government Printing Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Archives and Records Service, National Science Foundation, National Technical Information Service (Department of Commerce), Office of Scientific and Technical Information (Department of Energy), Smithsonian Institution, Supreme Court of the United States, and the U.S. Information Agency.

The FLICC members selected ten agencies to serve two-year rotating terms beginning January 1, 1988. These ten FLICC member agencies are the Federal Drug Administration, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Library, Internal Revenue Service, Army War College, Congressional Budget Office, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Labor Relations Board, Security and Exchange Commission, and the Office of Personnel Management. In addition to the permanent representative from the Department of Defense, one non-voting member is selected from each of the military services (U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Navy).

One representative from each of the following agencies is invited as an observer to Committee meetings: the General Accounting Office, the General Services Administration, the Joint Committee on Printing of the U.S. Congress, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the Office of Management and Budget.

While its operating network FEDLINK focuses on delivery of training and services, FLICC focuses on policy issues, education, and other cooperative endeavors. Among its programs and activities to discharge its responsibilities, FLICC serves as a forum to consider:

- issues and policies that affect federal libraries and information centers.
- needs and priorities in providing information services to the government and to the nation at large.
- efficient and cost-effective use of federal library and information resources and services.

Furthermore, the Committee promotes

- improved access to information.
- continued development and use of the Federal Library and Information Center Network (FEDLINK).
- research and development in the application of new technologies to federal libraries and information centers.
- improvements in the management of federal libraries and information centers.
- relevant educational opportunities.

FLICC
Federal Library and Information Center Committee

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 707-6055

FLICC Factsheet
Number 2

Federal Libraries and Information Centers

A National Resource

More than 2,500 federal libraries and information centers form an information infrastructure that extends around the globe. From Washington, D.C., to Alaska and from Panama to Saudi Arabia, the nation's libraries and information centers undergird and nourish the programs of the agencies they represent. Located in all branches of the federal government, as well as in other independent agencies, they support their agencies' missions by providing access to information when and where it is needed, to citizens both within and without the federal government.

Three large national libraries—the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, the National Library of Medicine—and two information centers—the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)—located in Washington, D.C., provide the cornerstone of this information infrastructure.

Other federal libraries and information centers range from very large to very small (fewer than 10 full-time employees), and all sizes in between. Many smaller facilities are in military posts around the world. Larger ones often have collections devoted to a single subject. For example, the U.S. Department of Education Research Library is the largest federally funded library in the world devoted solely to education. Many agencies, such as the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, have field office libraries, which form a network of their own.

In serving their agencies, these resource centers serve the people—the taxpayers—who depend on the federal government to lead, guide, and manage the country's business. That government business ranges from creating laws and enforcing regulations to providing social programs and pursuing foreign policy initiatives. Many facilities are open to the public. Others limit their services to other federal libraries and information centers or to their own department or agency because of their mission or staffing and budgetary constraints.

To assist federal libraries and information centers and provide leadership for the future, the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) was established in 1965 (as the Federal Library Committee) by the Library of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (formerly the Bureau of the Budget). FLICC makes recommendations on federal library and information policies, programs, and procedures, coordinates cooperative activities and services among them, and serves as a forum for the consideration of issues and policies, needs, and efficient, cost-effective use of resources and services. FLICC also promotes improved access to information, continued development and use of the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK), research and development in the application of new technologies, improvement in the management of federal libraries and information centers, and relevant educational opportunities.

Whereas the formal committee (FLICC) focuses primarily on policy issues, its operating network, FEDLINK, administers information services contracts on behalf of member libraries and information centers, often at significant discounts. FEDLINK, whose contractual services are open to any federal entity, has grown since its beginning in 1976 to become the largest library network in the nation, and the only network operating nationwide and overseas.

The wealth of federal libraries and information centers is beyond measure. They are partners in accomplishing the nation's goals—a valuable strength and source of vital information. ▮

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

FLAG News Update: June, 1990 No. 1

Number 1: a report on the activities of the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) in preparation for WHCLIS II

Earnest, Grimes Assume Preconference Coordinator Posts

Kathryn Earnest of the Pentagon Library and Doria Beachall Grimes of the National Technical Information Service will serve as coordinators of the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The appointments were announced by Elizabeth Yeates of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, named in May as FLAG chair, succeeding Dorothy Cross, Pentagon Library, a leader in the effort since 1986.

FLAG Liaisons Reach Out To Several Information Groups

Several federal librarians have agreed to act as FLAG liaison, helping to involve other information organizations in the activities of FLAG leading to the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II). Those appointed include: AFLS--Edwin Williams, ALA--Adelaide Del Frate, CENDI--Kurt Mulholm, DCLA--Elisabeth Knauff, MLA/FLRT--Karen Renninger, NFAIS--Adelaide Del Frate, SLA--Marcia Stone. Volunteers are sought for ACRL, ASIS, and the Federal IRM community.

Federal Librarians Begin Staffing Four Key Preconference Committees

After four years of work devoted to the initial organization of the federal sector for WHCLIS II, FLAG now offers federal librarians and information professionals interested in being involved in the initial stages of the preconference four major outlets of activity from which to choose. The four committes are: delegate and participant selection, program/issues/logistics/arrangements, public relatations/exhibits/hospitality, and resolution and rules. Volunteers are needed and are encouraged to contact the FLICC Office at the number below as soon as possible.

Issues Group Focuses On Five Areas for the Preconference

Under the Federal Preconference theme of "citizen access to Federal information resources through Federal agency information organizations," the Issues Group is laying the groundwork for the discussion of five preconference issues of crucial importance to federal information professionals: access policies, networking, preservation, funding, and critical incidents. Recent FLICC events that focused on preconference areas are the FLICC Forum in March, which stressed access as the key to federal information policies, and the FLICC Preservation Seminar in April, which examined resources for preservation planning and disaster preparedness. The issues groups began to prioritize major points and continued work on issue papers at a FLAG planning meeting held June 4 at the Library of Congress.

Levering Challenges Librarians At AFLS/FLRT Meeting To Join FLAG Effort

FLICC Acting Executive Director Mary Berghaus Levering will call on federal librarians and information center professionals attending the annual AFLS/FLRT joint luncheon in Chicago on June 23 to become active as FLAG members. The groups are holding a joint session for the first time since 1986.

Steering Committee Names Representatives To FLAG Committees

FLAG Chair Elizabeth Yeates has announced the following steering committee members have agreed to aid the work of FLAG's committees and groups: Karen Renninger--Delegates; Doria Grimes, Kathryn Earnest--Program/Issues; Adelaide Del Frate--Public Relations; Elizabeth Yeates--Resolutions and Rules and Critical Incidents; Patricia Dobrosky--Access; Sigrid Harriman--Networking; Dorothy Cross--Preservation; Nell Strickland--Funding.

Federal Library and Information Center Committee
Library of Congress, Adams Building Washington, DC 20540 (202) 707-6055

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

FLAG News Update

July 1990, No. 2

A report on the activities of the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) in preparation for WHCLIS II

Resnick: Federal Information Professionals Must Lead

Linda Resnick, executive director of the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II), told the June 4 planning meeting of the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group for WHCLIS II (FLAG) that there are several ways federal information professionals can play a leading role in events leading up to WHCLIS II in Washington, D.C., in July 1991. She suggested: serving as a delegate to state preconferences, forming coalitions with state delegates at local preconferences, and educating nonfederal state delegates about federal initiatives and recommendations. Resnik also had this advice on the crucial issue of access: FLAG members should expand this issue to consider what can be done to provide for the existence of government information as well as its delivery to all citizens.

Delegate Nomination Period Extended for November Preconference

Delegate nomination forms are still being accepted for the Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held November 26-27, according to Kathryn Earnest and Doria Grimes, federal preconference coordinators. Site of the sessions will be the National Library of Medicine's Lister Hill Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The deadline for submission of delegate, alternate, or observer nomination forms has been extended to September 3. Copies of these forms are attached to this update.

Committees and Preconference Issue Groups Welcome Volunteers

Volunteers are being sought not only to plan the preconference but also to help lay the groundwork for the discussion of crucial preconference issues. Federal information personnel who would like to be at the heart of the action are urged to contact the following chairs to join committees:

- Delegate Selection, Sharon McKinley (202) 707-0741
- Program/Issues/Logistics, Sandra Young (703) 274-3479
- Public Relations, Marie O'Mara (202) 283-7717 or Denise Wiltshire (703) 648-7114
- Resolutions and Rules, Christine Vernon (804) 766-1468.

Volunteers interested specifically in developing issues can contact the following:

- Access, Kurt Molholm (202) 274-6800
- Networking, Jeanne Bohlen (202) 457-1700
- Preservation, Charles Gallagher (301) 743-4742 or Ann Juneau (202) 357-4939
- Funding, Nell Strickland (202) 325-2522
- Critical Incidents, Elizabeth Yeates (202) 634-3380.

Yeates Reviews Goals, Objectives of November Preconference

What will be the eventual result of the work of the preconference? FLAG chair Elizabeth Yeates detailed the goals and objectives of the November preconference at the FLAG meeting in June. Goals of the sessions are to promote the theme of "citizen access to Federal information resources through Federal agency information organizations" and to promote the cause of the Federal library and information center program through interaction with the White House Conference process. Objectives of the preconference are to elect delegates to WHCLIS II and to identify, prepare, and forward resolutions to the national conference.

Are You a Delegate to a State Pre-White House Conference?

If so, FLAG asks that you notify the FLICC office at (202) 707-6055. Give us your name and address, so that you can receive mailings on federal information issues.

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

FLAG ☆ News Update

September 1990, No. 3

A report on the activities of the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) in preparation for WHCLIS II

★ Wood and Fusoni To Speak at November Pre-Conference

Dr. Fred Wood, senior associate, Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) will address the issue of information access at the Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services, to be held November 26-27. Wood was project director for two landmark OTA studies on the subject of access (*Informing the Nation: Federal Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age*, 1988, and *The Role of Scientific and Technical Information*, 1990). Also scheduled is Dr. Allen Fusoni, director of special collections at the National Agricultural Library, who will speak on the issue of preservation. Fusoni is one of the leading federal experts on conservation and has written and spoken widely on the topic.

★ Delegate Nomination Period Extended

The deadline for submission of nomination forms for delegates, alternates, and observers for the Pre-White House Conference has been extended until September 22. Nominees from agency information/library committees or advisory groups are especially needed.

★ Preservation Problems and Issues Needed

Federal information personnel are urged to submit their major preservation problems and issue to Charles Gallagher (Fax: 301-743-4743) or Ann Juneau (Fax: 202-357-1896). The data will be used at the November Preconference.

★ Critical Incidents Needed

Here is your chance to publicize one or more of the exciting events in your experience illustrating the impact of federal library and information center products and services on American lives, economy, history, and culture. Provide a narrative in terms that would attract the attention of non-information professionals. Include the name of the agency and year of occurrence (if possible). It would be helpful if you assigned relevant descriptors from the WHCLIS and federal themes/issues (democracy, literacy, and productivity; and access (policies), networking, preservation, and funding, respectively.) Send to Elizabeth Yeates (Fax: 634-3343).

★ Vote of Thanks

The Steering Committee extends a hearty vote of thanks to the members of the Access, Networking, and Preservation issue groups for their timely and energetic work to make the November Pre-Conference a success.

Federal Library and Information Center Committee
Library of Congress, Adams Building Washington, DC 20540 (202) 707-6055

FLICC Federal Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

FLAG ★ News Update

October 1990, No. 4

A report on the activities of the Federal Library/Information Center Advisory Group (FLAG) in preparation for WHCLIS II

★ Howard and Kaske to speak at November Federal Preconference

Joseph H. Howard, director, National Agricultural Library, will lead the discussion relating to "funding," one of the four major issues, all under the umbrella of "access" at the Federal Pre-White House Conference to be held on November 26-27 at the National Library of Medicine's Lister Hill Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Neal K. Kaske, senior associate, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Library Programs, will address the topic of networking. He joins Dr. Alan Fusonie, head, Special Collections, National Agricultural Library, and Dr. Fred Wood, senior associate, Office of Technology Assessment, who will address the other principal issues: preservation and access, respectively.

★ Delegate Training for Preconference

All delegates and alternates will participate in a training seminar on Tuesday, November 13, at the Library of Congress, Madison Memorial Building, West Dining Room, from 1 to 4:45 p.m.

★ FLICC 25th Anniversary Celebration: a Joint Reception

Federal Preconference participants will join in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee on the evening of Monday, November 26, as part of preconference activities. Dignitaries from the national libraries, other federal libraries, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and other invited guests will gather together to mark this historic occasion.

★ FLAG Acts as Federal Exhibit Coordinator for WHCLIS II

FLICC has been asked to help coordinate federal participation in the displays for WHCLIS II, July 9-13, 1991. The FLICC/FLAG display project manager, Marcie Stone of DTIC, is working closely with Dick Diener of WHCLIS and FLICC staff to coordinate the requests to agencies for the World of Information displays. The displays are intended to provide conference participants with a glimpse of the future of information services, including systems and technologies.

★ NAL and NEH cooperate on Exhibit for Federal Preconference

Exhibits on Preservation will be donated by the National Agricultural Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

★ ERIC Publishes Mini-Bib on WHCLIS and Its Three Themes:Literacy, Productivity, and Democracy

This bibliography will be available to all participants thanks to the initiative of Patricia Coulter, FLAG Public Relations Committee member, and director, ERIC Branch.

Acknowledgements of Contributors

1. The following professional library associations generously supported a reception, celebrating the Federal Preconference for the Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services and the 25th anniversary of FLICC:

The American Association of Law Libraries and The Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.
The Federal Librarians Round Table/American Library Association
The Medical Library Association
The Special Libraries Association

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2. The following federal agencies provided funding contributions to help support the Federal Preconference for the Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services:

Customs Service
Defense Technical Information Center
Department of Commerce
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Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of the Navy, Naval Observatory
Department of Transportation
General Services Administration
Government Printing Office
Institute of Peace
Library of Congress
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
National Library of Medicine
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Secretary of the Army
Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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3. In addition, dozens of federal agencies donated generously of their staff time and effort to make the preconference a success. FLAG volunteers are listed in Section 6.